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THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH, 2017

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH
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GETTING THAT FESTIVE FEELING

Staff from a Maesteg supermarket, as well as many others from the area, were all dressed up for festive fun and frolics, taking part in the annual Christmas parade through Maesteg.

The parade, featuring floats and a marching band, was the precursor to Maesteg's switch being thrown to bathe the town in Christmas lights.

More photographs (by Scenic Gallery) capturing that special day are on page 7.

Five local NatWest branches set to close next year

NATWEST branches in Porthcawl, Pencoed, Maesteg, Talbot Green and Cowbridge will close in mid-2018, the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), of which NatWest is part, announced on December1. Altogether, some 259 RBS and NatWest branches will close nationwide with nearly 700 job losses.

A spokeswoman for RBS said that the decision to do so was based on lack of use by customers who, she said, are using digital and other options more regularly.

The Cowbridge branch, she said, has a weekly average of 50 customers each week and the Porthcawl branch just over 100.

The closing dates are as follows:

Porthcawl May 18; Cowbridge June 4; Maesteg June 13; Pencoed June 18; Talbot Green June 25.

The spokeswoman continued: "We are communicating with customers affected by the closure and proactively contacting vulnerable customers and regular branch users.

"We have extended the time between announcing our decision and the branch closure to six months; this has been done so that we can ensure our customers have enough time to consider the right banking options for them and to give us time to support them one-to-one during the transition."

She added: "We provide a range of alternative ways to bank, tailored to the needs of our customers and reflective of the way they live their lives, including online and mobile, telephony (including over the phone, via web-chat and social media) and contact centres, as well as ATMs, 'community bankers' and mobile branches."

The spokeswoman also said that customers can use the Post Office.

"We have a national agreement with the Post Office to provide our customers with a range of banking services. Customers can pay money in, take money out, check balances and business customers can get coinage."

She went on to say that, for Cowbridge customers, "the closest Post Office is Cowbridge, 0.46 miles away from the branch."

The GEM pointed out that the Post Office in Cowbridge closed in September 2017 and that the closest Post offices are in Bridgend – where the next closest NatWest is – or Llantwit Major.

Local MP Alun Cairns said: "I regret RBS' decision to close Cowbridge's branch of NatWest. Cowbridge is recognised as one of the most vibrant towns in Wales and I have significant concern that the branch closure will put strain on local business owners and residents who will now have to travel nearly seven miles to their closest branch.

"I have today [December 1] contacted NatWest to urge that their mobile bank visit Cowbridge on a regular, scheduled basis."

"In the meantime, NatWest assures me that their TechXperts will be on hand to support their Cowbridge customers who will be affected by the closure and will aid those who are not familiar with how to use internet banking – I will work to ensure that this promise is fulfilled."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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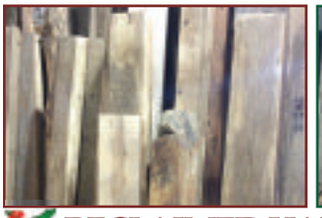

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Civic charity coffee morning raises £400

ON a cold November morning, the Bridgend County Civic Charity held a charity coffee morning in conjunction with the management of Heronston Hotel in aid of the chosen charities for 2017/2018.

The room was arranged by the staff of the hotel and everybody was given a warm welcome and had coffee or tea and biscuits after they had spent time going around the room to view and buy from the charity stalls.

The chosen charities this year – Alzheimer's Society Bridgend, the Breast Cancer Unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital and the Bridgend Youth Theatre all had information stalls and several other charities displayed and sold goods for their charities, such as Emmaus South Wales (Bridgend), Heronsbridge School, Bridgend Carers, BAVO, Mulligan's, civic charity with tombola and handmade gifts organised by Sue Bowen.

The comperè was Cllr John McCarthy.

The highlight of the event was the wonderful entertainment given by the pupils of Llangewydd School, singing six well-chosen songs with the music teacher Darryl Evans in charge, and the headteacher Neil Clode present to oversee the event.

Llangewydd Primary School choir sang at the coffee morning.

The choir was safely driven from school to the Heronston Hotel and back to school by kind sponsorship of Gwyn Jones of Gwyn Jones Coaches Ltd, Bryncethin.

The morning was a wonderful event and the charity gained £400, and thanks to all who gave support to the important civic charity.

The next event is the Nearly Christmas Dinner and presentation to the 2016/2017 chosen charities and the guest speaker is Glyn Price on 'Life in Music' and he will present the Archbishop McGrath Jazz Group as well.

Tickets are £25 and it is held at the Grove Golf Club restaurant 6pm for 6.30pm. Welcome to all.

MM

No GP appointments at weekends, CLAIMS AM

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies has said she is disappointed to discover that there are no GP practices in the Bridgend area that offer appointments to patients at weekends.

Mrs Davies submitted a Freedom of Information request to the ABMu health board to ask how many practices offer these appointments and the answer was none.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative, said: "This is very disappointing. The Welsh Labour Government had said that it was going to improve access to family doctors for those patients who are at work and are unable to attend in normal surgery hours. This is all part of creating a health service that works 24/7.

"Obviously, emergency treatment is available at all times but patients have to see their doctor for many other reasons and providing some Saturday appointments would ease the pressure on those slots that are available during the week.

"I was also disappointed to discover that the 69 GP practices in Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot only provide access up until 6.30pm which they are contractually liable to do. But there had been talk of providing some later appointments for people in work."

In its response to Mrs Davies, ABMU said that a review of access is currently underway which would look at appointments being made available after 5.30pm.

She added: "I welcome this development and also support the new framework agreed by ABMU called 'Telephone First', in which patients can speak to a GP by phone. This sets out standards to be followed to ensure consistency between practices and to ensure that the right advice is given to patients."

An ABMU spokesperson said: "ABMU has successfully piloted the 111 Wales telephone helpline which provides patients with access to GPs and other health professionals such as pharmacists out of hours.

"In the first year almost 145,000 calls were answered.

Of those, around 84,000 callers either spoke to or were seen by GP out-of-hours and 11,000 were provided with self-care advice.

"Previously, residents had to ring different numbers to contact NHS Direct Wales or GP out-of-hours. Now they can call 111 to access both, making it easier to get the right advice, support or treatment.

"In addition to the 111 service, we have increased the number of community pharmacies open on Sundays. We are also 'rolling out' a programme to allow appropriately qualified pharmacists to prescribe medication for common ailments so patients don't need to see a GP.

"When making changes or developing community healthcare services, we are mindful of the current shortage of GPs and the impact this has.

"This is why we are introducing other healthcare professionals such as pharmacists and physiotherapists to GP surgeries so they can see appropriate patients and free up GP appointments for patients who need to see the GP for their condition."

Bishop to attend 'cross-licensing' service

THE Right Reverend June Osborne, the 72nd Bishop of Llandaff, will be at a 'cross-licensing' service at St Illtyd's Church, Newcastle, on Sunday, December 10 beginning at 6pm.

Cross-licensing allows clergy and lay readers from different parishes to lead services and read in different churches that belong to the 'ministry area', of which St Illtyd's will belong, in Bridgend.

Father David Lloyd of St Illtyd's said he hopes for a good turnout on the evening, the second Sunday of Advent, for Evening Prayer.

He invited all in the area, not just the parish, to join in, and said: "Do come along to the church on Sunday and learn more about cross licensing, the new ministry area, and to meet the Bishop,"

The service will also be attended by the Archdeacon, the Venerable Peggy Jackson.

For more information, visit @saintilltydbridgend on Facebook, or telephone 01656 655999.

£100k refurb for Cornelly community centre

CORNELLY Community Centre is to get a £100,000 refurbishment, with the repairs including a new roof.

Bridgend County Borough Council has awarded a £50,000 grant to Cornelly Community Council to fund the work, with the community council paying the other half.

The centre on Heol Las will also be transferred to the community council as a 'community asset transfer'.

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Smyrna Baptist Chapel, Vestry (Hall) Heol Eglwys, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4LY

Information supplied www.welshhearts.org.

KPC YOUTH & COMMUNITY

KPC Youth is holding its annual Christmas evening at Pyle RFC on Wednesday, December 13.

Doors open at 6pm with entertainment from Pil Primary School and Cynffig Comprehensive School choirs. All welcome (free admission) to come along and browse the stalls, pick up some last minute gifts/stocking fillers, and enjoy the entertainment, and festive refreshments.

There will also be a visit from Father Christmas and a grotto. KPC's Christmas raffle will also be drawn on the night. For further details contact Alison on 01656 749219 or email: kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	08.51	10.2	21.18	9.9
08 Fri	09.39	9.7	22.12	9.4
09 Sat	10.33	9.2	23.04	8.8
10 Sun	11.32	8.7		
11 Mon	00.06	8.4	12.35	8.4
12 Tues	01.17	8.2	13.47	8.3
13 Wed	02.28	8.3	14.55	8.4
14 Thur	03.32	8.6	15.57	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Tel: 01446 774484 • Fax: 01446 774108
FACEBOOK: GlamorganGEM / TWITTER: gem_news • GEMSportNews

News Submissions: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Editorial enquiries: gareth.jamieson@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Tim Chapman tim.chapman@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER *@TimGlamorganGEM*
Philip Irwin philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER *@PhilipGlamGEM*
Andy Johnstone andy.johnstone@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Young musicians on show at Rotary event

The instrumental section top three (James Clear, Samuel Finch and Isaac Cronjé) with Porthcawl Mayor Lorrie Desmond-Williams and Mrs Barbara Stubbs.

From left back row: Samuel Finch, Jean Dawe, Erin Thomas, James Clear, Isaak Cronjé, Grace Youngson. Front row: Tamsin Jenkins, Evie Brent.

ONE of the highlights of this year's Christmas Tree Festival, held jointly by Rotary in Porthcawl and All Saints' Church, was the first round of the Rotary Young Musician Competition.

On November 29, eight young musicians took part in what turned out to be an enthralling evening showcasing the abilities of the pupils from local schools.

A big vote of thanks must go to the panel of adjudicators, Tony Stradling, John Stark and Aldon Rees, for their hard work in choosing the eventual winners and also to the competitors themselves, whose hours and hours of practice made for faultless performances on the night.

The winner in the instrumental competition was last year's runner-up, 14-year-old flautist Samuel Finch, who was presented with a £50 prize and also a new award to be given annually in remembrance of former headteacher of St Clare's School and Rotary secretary, Ann Jarrett, who did so much for the club during her lifetime.

Samuel played the first movement of Flute Sonata by Poulenc and first movement of Flute Sonata in Emajor by JS Bach.

Second place went to pianist James Clear, 13, who won £20 performing Chopin's Nocturn in C-sharp minor, op posth. and Absil's Humoresque No 3 op 126, while third place, and £10, was awarded to another pianist Isaak Cronjé, 14, for his renditions of Valse Lente by Merikanto and Cruella de Ville by Leven.

There was only one entrant in the vocalist competition but Erin Thomas wonderfully entertained an enraptured audience with two popular pieces. The first of Erin's songs was 'Make You Feel My Love' written by Bob Dylan but made famous more recently by Adele, followed by Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'.

As winners, Samuel and Erin move on to the next round in the Nationwide completion and we wish them both well as they progress through each round.

Not far behind the winners were pianists Grace Youngson, 16, Jean Dawe, 13, Evie Brent, 9 and Tamsin Jenkins, 8 who should remember that this year's winner, Samuel, was runner-up last year – so there's hope for all three of them to be potential winners in the future!

Many thanks must go to the Mayor of Porthcawl, Lorrie Desmond-Williams for attending the competition and also to Mrs Barbara Stubbs, chair of the club's youth committee who organised the proceedings helped by Rotarian Wayne Warlow, former Rotarian Judith Shawe and local music teachers, Liz Dewhurst and Rebecca Hurn.

A big vote of thanks must deservedly go, again, to the young musicians themselves together with their parents for their on-going encouragement and to their music teachers for their part in a wonderful evening of talent.

IW

A roaring trade for Lions at Santa's grotto

OVER the past two Saturdays, Porthcawl Lions have been helping Santa and his elves in the Christmas grotto.

This year the grotto is in the Porthcawl Museum in John Street.

Entrance to the grotto is a £4 and every child receives a toy. Santa is there every Saturday up to December 23, from 11am to 4pm.

Entries are now been taken for the Porthcawl Lions Boxing Day Fun Run starting at the Hi Tide at 11am. This 7K run is a popular event and has raised a considerable amount for charities with many runners being sponsored.

Every runner who completes the course receives a medal and there are prizes for different categories. Full details can be found on the Porthcawl Lions' web page, which is *porthcawllions.org.uk*

Advance notice is being given by the Lions of its Burns' Night dinner at the Hi Tide on Friday, January 26.

The evening's entertainment consists of the traditional meal, Scottish music and a piper.

Tickets are available from the Porthcawl museum or from any member of the Porthcawl Lions.

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A magical evening with The Savoyards

THE Mid Glamorgan Savoyards held their audience 'spellbound' with their recent production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

The opening entrance of the fairies and their queen, with its unexpected robust dancing and singing, rather than delicate tripping and sweet tones, set the tone for an evening of fun and topical jokes; 'What do 'Corbynista legs' look like, I wonder?'

The Peers are satirised frequently, making remarks such as 'I have a great respect for brains. I wish I had some myself.'

Such a lot of the story seemed relevant today, with the women pushing for election to the House of Peers being based on intelligent competition.

Of course, we had the usual jokes about the married state too – our hero remarks to his wife to be, Phyllis, 'We're to be happy forever' and she replies, 'Well, we are to be married!' and the audience knew what the next line was going to be!

We are all familiar now with the excellent leading players, who bring polish, energy and feeling to their roles. It is hard to believe that these are amateur singers.

This production saw more of the larger groups on stage, fairies and peers playing each other off and providing a lively contrast with their costumes and dancing.

Congratulations must go to the stage director, Rob Reynolds, who also featured in the role of Lord Chancellor.

The large orchestra also played its part in the seamless performance, under the baton of musical director, Roger Hudd.

All proceeds go to charity and so far, nearly £2,500 have been raised for Kidney Research, Cancer Relief, Save the Children and Baby Loss Charity. Once again, a successful and enjoyable evening.

DOMINIQUE SPEAREY

'LOVELIGHT' SERVICE

LLANTWIT Major Friends of Tenovus will be holding its annual 'Lovelight' service on Thursday, December 14 at 7.30pm at St Illtyd's Church, College Street, Llantwit Major.

This service presents an opportunity to give thanks for our loved ones; we each light a candle in love, honour or in memory of someone we love, celebrate a new life, ask for a blessing for someone, give thanks for a healing.

We have been holding this service for over 25 years with tremendous support from the community, we look forward to seeing you all.

Join us in listening to St Illtyd's Primary School choir, enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. **TS**

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SANTA GETS A HAND FROM 'BEAVER-ELVES'

The Beaver-Elves had cake after they paraded behind Santa and his reindeer around Bridgend. They each received a selection box for taking part from the president of Bridgend Lions, Patrick Halliwell.

Big Lottery funding available

STAFF from the Big Lottery Fund are offering appointments to local voluntary groups and organisations to discuss funding opportunities when they visit Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) on Wednesday, January 10 in their office in Maesteg from 9.30am – 3pm.

30-minute meetings are available by appointment only. Every year the Big Lottery Fund distributes millions of pounds of National Lottery funding to good causes. It funds not-for-profit and voluntary organisations to deliver projects that improve health, education, environment and improve the lives of people and communities most in need.

It can fund capital or revenue projects and has two grants available: Awards for All Wales, which distributes grants from £300 to £10,000; and People and Places, which distributes grants from £10,001 to £500,000 for projects lasting up to five years.

Changes to funding have taken place, and therefore interested parties are strongly advised to check the eligibility of their project on the Big Lottery Fund website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk in the guidance notes for either fund before making an appointment.

If you're interested in booking a time slot, you must register your interest by contacting BAVO on 01656 810400 or at bavo@bavo.org.uk by Friday, January 5.

BS

Oldcastle Primary develops potential STEM specialists

The children took part in 'Code Club'.

LAST month, Oldcastle Primary School has recently completed a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) week.

It provided children from the age of three to 11 years with a range of opportunities.

Among others, Reception and year 1 children had visits from Seaquest and Techniquest. The children also had talks from a pharmacist, a paramedic and learned about slime, virtual reality, forest school and the environment, as well as conducting electricity through vegetables.

As part of their topic work, Year 3 visited Cardiff University neuroscience department, learned about electrolysis, computer coding and investigated life through virtual technology. They now know how to extract DNA from vegetables, and had a workshop on the human body from Swansea University.

Year 4 looked at forces and foods from around the world as part of their STEM topic work. Children visited ICAT at Cardiff Airport and Asda, and received including Aston Martin and Network Rail.

Children in year 5 visited Aberthaw Power Station and learned about power, electricity and energy and the children created wind turbines.

Headteacher Jeremy Thompson said: "I can't thank enough all those that gave up their time to make this such an enjoyable experience for the children. We are looking forward to developing our STEM week further for 2018."

'Sing Christmas' at All Saints

IN 2017 the Broadway Chorus moves to All Saints' Church in Porthcawl for its evening of carols and seasonal songs, on behalf of Macmillan cancer support.

Sing Christmas is on Friday, December 15 at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £8 or £5 (children) and are available from Ceri Millar and Co, 8 Well Street, Porthcawl, from chorus members, or at the door.

Michael Plowman will conduct the concert, with Catherine Mayor providing some flute items. We are also excited that baritone Mark Llewelyn Evans is to perform with us.

As well as an opportunity for the audience to join in the singing of well known carols, mince pies and mulled wine will be on hand. Together with traditional readings, Sing Christmas promises to be an evening of festive delights, not to be missed. **AS**

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Soroptimists join Christmas tree festival

BRIDGEND Soroptimists continued with their tradition entering a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival at Nolton Church.

The club's chosen theme this year was the Meru Project which supports women in Kenya in growing provisions for their families, and talented club members spent many hours creating delightful decorations depicting the food items which are now being enjoyed by these less fortunate people.

The goodies on the tree looked good enough to eat and provided a vibrant and colourful truly festive display.

On November 20 the finals of Brownies Have Talent were held at Brackla Tabernacle Church. The judges complimented the entrants on the high standard of their varied talents and after much deliberation awarded first prize to 'Imogen the Incredible' from Porthcawl who entertained with her awesome Magic Tricks.

More information on the work of Soroptimists can be found on www.sigbi.org/bridgend-and-district

EB

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

BCBC Young Achievers

Reggie 'n' Bollie performed at the awards ceremony.

BRIDGE FM has recognised the success of local young people in its 'Bridge FM Young Achiever Awards', which took place at the Best Western Heronston Hotel and Spa in Ewenny.

Young people from across the county borough received awards for success in a range of categories from community and voluntary work to business, education and the arts.

The event, sponsored by Bridgend College, was hosted by Bridge FM presenters Lee Jukes and Louise Apsee.

Viv Buckley, deputy principal of Bridgend College said: "Bridgend College was very proud to be the main sponsors of such a fantastic event. As a college, we champion achievement and overcoming challenges and celebrate diversity. The barriers many of the award winners had to overcome are nothing short of incredible. We were privileged to meet and recognise so many inspirational young people."

Entertainment on the evening was provided by *X Factor* finalists Reggie 'n' Bollie, and Bridgend's Jamie Bell, who opened the ceremony.

Mr Bell appeared on the last series of *Britain's Got Talent* and studies performing arts at Bridgend College.

Llansannor's inaugural Christmas Fair an 'outstanding success'

THE First Llansannor Christmas Fair held in the Community Hall recently was judged by all those involved to have been an outstanding success.

This new community event, arranged by Karen Thomas and her team on behalf of the Llansannor Community Hall Association (LCHA), aimed to provide both an inviting community Christmas event and an opportunity to showcase local small and craft businesses, and seems to have succeeded beyond expectation on all fronts.

Well supported by local craft businesses including: Jewel Glass, Buttercup Cwtch, Wood Yard Gifts, Small Print Jewellery, Melin Wynt Creations, Memo Bears and two members of the Welsh Basket Makers' South Wales Group, LP Designs and Stitching Rainbows, together with local church and community stalls and, of course, competitions for all ages.

The fair attracted a continuous stream of visitors throughout the morning and on top of the money taken by the local crafts and Llansannor Church, raised £700 to support the LCHA and community activity development.

The LCHA would like to thank everyone who participated for their support and look forward to seeing everyone at events in 2018.

KT

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The unseen Palace of Westminster – a tribute to Victorian ingenuity

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.

THINK back to your school days. Did you ever take part in an operation? Design a wind turbine? Explore the human body and the brain?

Design computer codes? The pupils in Oldcastle primary school have all of these opportunities during their excellent STEM week. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and is a critical part of our education system.

Children's understanding of future study and employment opportunities is now awakened early. Britain's Victorian engineers led the world in their design, invention and ingenuity in science, technology, engineering and maths. We desperately need to recapture that excitement and creativity to meet today's challenges.

I saw Victorian ingenuity when I took an underground tour of the Palace of Westminster. Hard hat, heavy boots and high-vis jacket to the ready, I headed down below the river to see how the Palace is kept working. Taxpayers are about to pay for a major renovation of the Palace which will cost between £5 and £7 billion, so it is important we understand why this is a priority.

Over 14,000 people work on the Parliamentary estate. Only 650 of them are MP's. There are clerks of the House, the Parliamentary equivalent of the civil servants who work in Government offices.

Police and security guards, catering and domestic staff and a huge array of technical and building trades; stonemasons, roofers, scaffolders, plumbers, electricians and carpenters.

Walking the corridors below the Palace, you see why so many are needed. The Victorians built to last but even their work is decaying and breaking down.

The 'upgrades' of the 1950s and 1980s have failed and need replacing. Seeing high voltage electric wiring sitting alongside gas pipes and long sheets of galvanised metal sitting above electrical wiring to stop water dripping over them does not inspire confidence.

In the tunnels, workmen patch, renew and repair, keeping the system working. Even the internal telephones worked, despite the jumble of wires hanging from each junction box seeming to make that impossible.

Climbing down to see the Victorian sewerage system was a smelly journey, even though the holding vats no longer operate. Raw sewage was pumped into the Thames by the Victorians.

The problem facing engineers was how to stop the effluent flooding back into the Palace system, set lower than the river. An ingenious pumping system allowed Palace waste to be fast jetted in the Thames preventing any back flow. Not an image or smell to linger on.

The most inspiring part of the tour was high above ground. We climbed up into the Victorian air conditioning system, designed to pull fresh air into the building.

During the rebuilding there was a row between two engineers about the best system for providing fresh air. Parliament had to decide which to choose.

A compromise was reached: one engineer designed the system for the Lords, the other for the Commons. Up above the public rooms and corridors are a maze of unvisited, unknown vast chambers and wonders. A huge single chandelier lights Central Lobby.

High above it there is a small cupboard, which when opened, reveals the mechanism for lowering the chandelier to clean it and change bulbs.

Above the cupboard soars a vast chamber leading up into a tower of windows that open to allow air to circulate down below. The Palace has fireplaces in each room. These are the air vents bringing the fresh air into rooms. The fireplaces never burned coal.

Some of the more exciting possibilities of the restoration will see areas of the Palace, currently closed off to the public, opened up and provide new spaces for committees and visitors. Many areas now used for storage and rubbish collection can be moved underground into areas blocked off because of asbestos contamination.

The Parliamentary intranet lists the work being undertaken on the building site that is our workplace in Westminster. Scaffolding and a hoist dominate Speaker's Court to work on the lead roof. The Big Ben tower is shrouded in scaffolding and netting. A new crane is being built in New Palace Yard to work on the Tower.

In Westminster Hall, built in 1099, huge beams and walls are being cleaned and new lighting and fire detection systems are being installed.

Working on a building site is not fun. In readiness for the votes which will decide whether we vacate the Palace to allow the major works to be done, I read *Mr Barry's War*, by Caroline Shenton.

Reading details of the work undertaken by Charles Barry, who designed the new Palace after the great fire of 1834 was fascinating. This tale of Victorian ingenuity, skill and design follows the work of Barry and Augustus Pugin, who created the amazing internal decorations of the Palace.

Members of Parliament refused to leave the building while the new build took place increasing the time, costs and putting huge strain on Barry and Pugin. Having read the book and taken the tour, I will vote to leave.

Let the workmen get on with their tasks. A country should not need its MPs to sit in an old crumbling building to feel it is being governed. Who knows; restoring the Palace may again inspire new thinking, innovation and design skills for Britain.

THE BOYS IN THE BAND CALL IT A DAY

THE Boys in The Band, the mid-Glamorgan Accordion Show Band, celebrated their farewell concert at the Stella Maris Church Hall in Porthcawl.

During the last four years the Boys have donated more £7,000 to local charities, and in 20 years have played moe than 300 gigs for charity.

The audience gave them a standing ovation as they played a wide variety of music, including complete arrangements of the scores of *Oklahoma* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, tangos and big-band swing numbers like 'Moonlight Serenade', and 'Stardust'.

Put one keyboard player, three accordionists, and a classical harmonica player together and you have the mid-Glamorgan Accordion Show Band. The band has performed hundreds of concerts in churches, retirement homes, clubs, and other local venues.

Regulars at The Rest, and the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel in Porthcawl, until it closed, they have a large repertoire, as many as 200 pieces, which appealed to different audiences, most of whom were of the over-50s generation.

The band has some fine players, including Wally Williams, Arthur Doughty and Steve Lewis; Allan Jones is the 'front' man, and leader Gerry Ezard. Originally numbering at least 15 players, the emphasis was always on having fun while they are playing. Advancing years have depleted their numbers to five, so they will still meet to rehearse, but no more bookings will be accepted.

BM

A choral concert to raise funds for St Mary's Church

THE first Friday in December sees Bridgend Male Choir in concert raising funds for the maintenance of St Mary's RC Church.

This annual event continues to delight and while the format remains similar, fresh faces and content make it one to look forward to and this year's offering was no exception.

A mix of popular items and carols was the order of the evening, with hosts, Bridgend Male Choir leading the congregational singing of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' to open the evening. The concert was a resounding success with the choir providing the backdrop for the wonderful children of St Mary's RC School choir, along with soprano Rhian Hughes and organist Scott Williams.

Soprano Rhian Hughes.

Scott and Steph.

This year, the choir's musical director Ryan Wood, due to his involvement with Only Men Aloud's Christmas tour, left the choir in the safe hands of Stephanie Bailey and Stewart Roberts. Stephanie is not only the choir's assistant musical director and accompanist, but is also the Rock Choir leader for south Wales. Stewart is the well respected musical director of Pendyrus Male Choir and an accomplished musician in his own right.

Completing the music team for the evening was the choir's own organist, Scott Williams, who first performed with the choir in 2008 and has since played all over Europe.

A near capacity audience was entertained by a choir who put on a celebration of music with seasonal offerings: 'There is Faint Music in the Night' and the classical 'The First Noel (Pachelbel's Canon)', along with the ever-popular 'Cwm Rhondda' and 'Myfanwy'.

Compere Gareth Davies kept the evening moving, with his usual light humour – but the stars of the show were the children, the wonderful children's choir of St Mary's Catholic School under the leadership of Gillian Weale.

The school choir thrilled the packed hall with their individual offerings of both traditional and newer compositions.

Grandparents who were enthusiastic in their applause. The children joined their senior colleagues in a congregational closing offering of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'.

Choirs and soloists extend their best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WINS UK AWARD

THE first acquisition by the trading arm of Welsh mental health charity Gofal has won a national award at the UK Social Enterprises Awards held in London.

The awards, organised by Social Enterprise UK (SEUK), recognise 'outstanding achievements by social enterprises' across the UK.

Gofal Enterprises Ltd (GEL) in partnership with Social Investment Cymru won the 'Social Investment Deal of the Year' Award, beating strong competition from five other shortlisted social enterprises.

The award win recognised GEL's acquisition of Caerphilly-based cleaning firm APP UK last year, which was hailed as a "significant statement within the sector in Wales".

The deal marked the first time a social enterprise in Wales had acquired a commercial organisation.

Managing director of GEL, Matthew Cole, said: "We recognise the need to think differently and creatively about the way we generate income for Gofal and the acquisition of APP UK was an exciting yet bold move for GEL.

Peter Holbrook, chief executive of SEUK, said: "These awards are a real testament to the dynamism and diversity of the UK social enterprise sector. Social enterprises are continuing to prove that they're a force to be reckoned with, they're creating solutions to some of the biggest challenges we face and showing how business can and should be done."

GS

Porthcawl Bridge Club latest results

LATEST results from the club are as follows.

November 18: First – Pat Haworth and Terry Dolan; second – Tony Haworth and John Beard.

November 23: First – Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; second – Terry Dolan and Roger Plant.

November 25: First – Terry Dolan and Pat Haworth; second – Trish Saunders and Janet Richards.

November 30: First – Trish Saunders and Connie Dick; second – Keith Davison and Tony Haworth.

The club meets twice a week: Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre 6.45pm – 9.45pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

MAESTEG'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE THRILLS THE LARGE CROWDS

Images by Phil Davies of www.scenicgallery.shop

MAESTEG'S annual Christmas Parade for 2017 proved to be just as spectacular as ever.

Large crowds cheered the colourful floats, the marching bands and, of course, Father Christmas who led the countdown to the festive light switch-on.

Other popular attractions included the craft fair and a glittering firework display.

On hand to capture lots of magic moments was local photographer Phil Davies of Scenic Gallery.

ENGINEERING COMPANY WINS GOLD AWARD

MORRIS Line Engineering, a Bridgend manufacturer of high voltage disconnectors and switches, has won regional recognition at this year's EEF Future Manufacturing Awards.

Morris Line Engineering, which employs 70 staff, won the Innovation Award sponsored by HVM Catapult. This award celebrates manufacturing innovation whether demonstrated through product development or operating practices that have driven greater productivity, efficiency or business growth.

Morris Line Engineering, its Bridgend site is on Brackla Industrial Estate, was up against stiff competition from a range of innovative businesses – small and large – from across the region. It was selected by a panel of judges drawn from business leaders, industry experts and academics after impressing them with their collaboration with partners to support rapid prototyping and development of 3D printing technologies.

With the regional title now secured, Morris Line Engineering will now go on to compete for the national title in January next year.

Brian Jones, executive director of manufacturing at Morris Line Engineering, said: "This award is testament to our hard working and dedicated team, and we are delighted to have won. It puts us on the map as a modern and innovative company and goes some way to demonstrate the valuable contribution made by local manufacturers, like ourselves, to our region. We can't wait to share this news with all our staff, customers and suppliers.

"It's fantastic to get this far and now we're all looking forward to the national finals in January to see how we measure up against the rest of the UK."

Christmas carol service 'to unite bereaved families'

A SPECIAL carol service giving people a chance to remember their loved ones at Christmas is being held by ABMU's chaplaincy department.

This year's annual Christmas carol service for the bereaved takes place on Wednesday, December 13 at St David's Church, Morriston at 7pm.

Head of chaplaincy and spiritual care the Rev Lance Sharpe said: "Christmas can be a particularly difficult time of year for those who are grieving. It is a time for family, friends and celebration so when a loved person is no longer there to share in the festivities it can, at worst, seem unbearable."

He said everyone is welcome to come along, no matter when they suffered their loss.

"Although nothing can alter the loss people have gone through, taking time to remember that person, light a candle and reflect on the good memories and love that was shared can bring comfort.

"By coming together, you are not alone, but with others who know what it is to lose someone too."

No tickets required but for information contact the chaplaincy department on 01792 703301.

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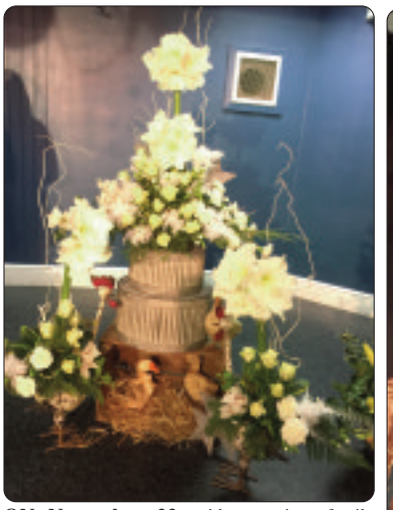

ON November 22, the Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society held its Christmas flower demonstration at the Grand Pavilion with two accomplished demonstrators Liz Gordon and her sister Daphne Furneaux.

The event was well-supported and the audience was entertained with amusing family anecdotes but above all, everyone admired the skill and talent of Liz and Daphne, who created a superb display of artistic floral designs putting everyone in a happy Christmassy mood.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and members of the Flower Club would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

AS

Conservatives 'a party of misandrists, not misogynists' says councillor

I WAS interested in reading a recent article in The GEM from Suzy Davies AM and Cllr Carolyn Webster entitled 'It's not the Conservatives who sneer at women, Mr Elmore', in which they say that "the Conservative Party is hardly a party of misogynists but a party of aspiration – regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity or religious belief."

Regrettably, this is simply not the case in practice.

This year's General Election saw the Welsh Conservative Party engineer a situation which resulted in the suspension of the democratic and open selection process which would usually give local members a choice over their parliamentary candidate.

Local men, including myself, were excluded from the candidate selection process altogether – all because the Party wanted to gerrymander the selection to ensure that a woman (who had no connection with Bridgend) was imposed as the Conservative candidate in Bridgend in the vain hope that this candidate would ultimately become the MP.

This was against the will of local Conservative members and with the tacit support of Mrs Davies and Ms Webster.

This is a clear example of favouring one gender over another – hardly a party of aspiration regardless of gender.

Mrs Davies and Ms Webster are right – the Welsh Conservative Party isn't a party of misogynists. On the contrary, it has demonstrated that it is a party of misandrists.

Cllr Alex Williams, Pencoed.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

WHEN SANTA CAME TO SANDVILLE

Conclusive proof that cake is good for one's Elf.

Report and pictures by Keith E Morgan.

AS usual, Father Christmas took time off from his very busy schedule to visit the Sandville Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig.

The centre had been decorated for Christmas with mostly everyone dressed in a festive costume. There was even a very colourful elf on duty on the tea and cakes stand.

Santa's 'Fairy Glen' Grotto had been prepared in the log cabin by Tony Lyshon, grotto decorator extraordinaire, ready for Santa's arrival.

After he had opened the Christmas table-top sale at Sandville, Father Christmas was able to see in his Grotto the many children who had been pensively waiting there at Sandville for his arrival.

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Building a better world through Lego

Mrs Fouracre with teachers from Europe.

DURING the week of November 19-25, St Nicholas CIW Primary School welcomed the teachers and children of our European Erasmus Partners from Denmark, Germany and Hungary.

The school is engaged in a two-year Erasmus project with Lego Education and schools from Denmark, Germany and Hungary, developing advanced coding skills using 'Lego Mindstorms'.

The week-long programme was intensive and full of activities. On Monday, the Danish IT experts taught the children the skills required to complete a range of coding challenges, before exploring Cardiff's Christmas Market in the driving rain.

On Wednesday the Erasmus group was given a tour of the Senedd, followed by a meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams AM.

The children asked questions about the future of education in Wales.

Taya Griffith of Year 6 asked: "Based on the rights of the child, I would like to organise a discussion about the importance of Erasmus and Lego Education for future pupils and how Brexit may affect this?"

Other schools in the cluster also attended, as did representatives from the British Council, to watch the children engage in their various challenges. We were visited by the Secretary of State for Wales Alan Cairns MP, who talked to the children and teachers about this project.

The project is now in its final year and will culminate in a visit to Aalburg, Denmark in May 2018, where the representatives from St Nicholas, Germany, Hungary and Denmark will take part in a competition to code a 'Sustainable City for the 21st Century', use Lego Mindstorms and give instructions such as turning off lights when not in use or turn solar panels towards the sun.

Mrs Fouracre, who co-ordinated this project, summed it up by saying: "Firstly through Comenius and now through an Erasmus Key Action 2 project we have been able to give our pupils the opportunity to speak to other countries, to share work with them and become good friends.

"It demonstrates that the world is smaller than people might think. Coding is the future literacy of the world and we are extremely grateful to Lego Education who has supported this project with training staff at their headquarters in Denmark and indeed financially with equipment."

WRITTEN BY ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL COUNCIL

STAFF AT MARIE CURIE RECEIVE PEACOCK AWARD

A MARIE Curie Nursing team based at the Cardiff and Vale hospice in Penarth is celebrating after winning a national award at the charity's annual Peacock Awards.

The Personal Development Support (PDS) team is made up of deputy ward sisters Gill Davies, Rebecca Thomas, Jenny Staddon, Marla Muir, and Pam Penman, a practice development facilitator and registered nurse.

The team won in the 'Innovation' category and were presented with their trophy at the awards, which took place at the Foundling Museum, London, last week.

In 2016, the training and development needs for the whole clinical team at the hospice was reviewed and an action plan was put into place for mandatory training and to facilitate learning opportunities for staff. The aim was to help improve staff engagement and morale.

The PDS days were introduced by the team for all in-patient unit clinical staff and this work has continued through 2017. This work has been instrumental in bringing the hospice staff together, developing nursing practice and improving patient centred care.

Dee Sissons, executive director of Nursing at Marie Curie, said: "Everyone had a wonderful time at the awards last week and it was an honour to be able to present the PDS team with the Innovation award for all of their work."

Rachel Moses-Lloyd

Penarth and District Ramblers enjoy the Llynfi Valley sights

FIFTEEN walkers, including Rachel from Penarth and District Ramblers, made their way to Pont Rhyd-y-Cyff in the Llynfi Valley below Maesteg, setting off on a cold bright morning in sunny weather to head by road onto a muddy bridleway leading through Cwm Du.

Making their way up a footbridge, they crossed part of the disused railway line below Blaen Cwm and into part of the Garw Forest for a zig-zag journey on pleasant forestry tracks before a stop for morning coffee.

Turning southwards and leaving the forest, there was more mud in store as a stile led them into fields for the trek to Moel Cynhordy.

Deciding not to trek up over the hilltop and making the walk shorter because of the underfoot conditions, they stopped on a path below the hill for lunch. They curved around the base of the hill to join the road at Lletty Brongu and were glad to be back on firmer footings before making their way home.

The next day, dogs Pepper and Biddy, along with eight walkers joined John R at Chepstow and passing the ruined castle, perched on the clifftop on the Welsh side of the river.

They crossed into Gloucestershire, heading uphill and past an old ruined Roman look-out point, following part of Offa's Dyke path through Moyle Old School Lane to Wintour's Leap, with its magical views over the Lancaut peninsula.

Fields brought them uphill to overlook the River Severn before heading back into woodland to the Devil's Pulpit, with its stunning view over Tintern in the valley below.

Muddy and slippery tracks led them downhill onto the disused railway line, then across the River Wye for lunch overlooking the majestic Tintern Abbey, before joining the Wye Valley Walk and heading uphill into Black Cliff Wood for the journey to the Eagle's Nest, with its fantastic views over Chepstow racecourse and the two Severn bridges.

Descending a muddy track, they paused for a moment at the Giant's Cave hewn out of solid rock, a deviation through the lovely Piercefield Estate brought them back to their start before the light dimmed for their journey home,

On December 10, meet at 9am at Cogan for an 8.5-mile moderate/hard walk taking in Craig Cerrig-gleisiag and Fan Frynach in the Brecon Beacons; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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will be taking a break for Christmas!
The last edition for 2017 will be dated 21st December.
The first edition for 2018 will be 4th January.
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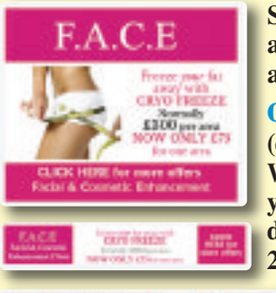

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'Trees from all walks of life' at Porthcawl festival

ROTARY in Porthcawl would like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone involved in this year's Christmas Tree Festival and for making it such a success.

The club is always grateful to the people who live in or around Porthcawl for their support in its Christmas activities and to all who came to All Saints' Church, they were treated to a winter wonderland of trees and lights, not to mention a chance to win one of four Christmas hampers.

There were trees from all walks of Porthcawl life – schools, churches, clubs, organisations and societies – each tree was festooned with decorations that were pertinent to the groups they represented.

Mince pies and hot drinks were available all through each day of the festival and there were several evenings with entertainment – the Rotary Young Musician competition and an evening of Christmas cheer with local school choirs, musicians and the local choir, Sounds Familiar.

If you missed this year's event, make a date for next year; it's sure to be even better.

Thanks to all the Rotarians who helped, the choirs and children who took part, their parents and teachers, the Mayor, Lorrie Desmond-Williams for her attendance and to Canon Philip Masson and All Saints' Church for the week-long use of the church.

Meanwhile, the Porthcawl Rotarians are still busy – the last day for the sale and posting of 25p stamps for Christmas card delivery to the CF36 area is December 11 and then the 'Posties' will be delivering the cards, then it's the Carolcade for four evenings from 5pm to 8pm.

Tuesday, December 12 starting at Nichols Avenue via The Mercies area to Austin Avenue.

Thursday, December 14 Long Acre Drive (far end) – Sandpiper Road area – Kittiwake Close.

Tuesday, December 19 Bryneglwys Gardens – Limetree Way area– Linden Way.

Thursday, December 2 Suffolk Place – Fenton Place – South Road – 40 Acre.

Please note that this year the Carolcade float will not be able to reverse up cul-de-sacs, so please listen for the music if it's around your area and bring your children to see Father and Mother Christmas if they can't get to you!

Finally, Rotary in Porthcawl wishes everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ivor Williams

Community Chest funds available

COMMUNITY groups and sports clubs that encourage people to be physically active, or take part in sport, are being invited to take advantage of funding opportunities.

The Community Chest Grant Scheme is funded by Sport Wales via the Lottery Sports Fund for Wales but is managed locally by Bridgend County Borough Council.

There is £29,000 of funding left for local sports clubs and organisations across the county borough.Any organisation with a bank account in their name can apply for a grant of up to £1,500.

Funding can be provided for any 12-month period and for a variety of purposes, including start-up costs, projects that deliver increased participation and improve standards, coach education and volunteer development, equipment, training, initial facility hire and instructor's costs for new sessions.

The Community Chest application process is an online system.

Applicants must visit the Sport Wales funding pages where advice and guidance is given on what sort of things can be funded.

If you are part of an organisation or sports club, and would like to find out more about how to apply, please contact Andrew Jones on 01656 642745 or email andrew.jones2@bridgend.gov.uk.

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB LATEST RESULTS

THE latest results Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

November 29: First, Alan Heath and Rob Forman; second, David Bowen and David Crompton; third, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham.

The winners on handicap were Alan Heath and Rob Forman.

November 30: First, Rosalie Close and David Newman; second, Stuart Davies and Teresa Griffiths; third, Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett.

The winners on handicap were Stuart Davies and Teresa Griffiths.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, players should arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

Lessons for beginners are being run by Steve Burgoyne and new on Thursdays at 1pm, there is a lesson about a bridge topic – this week it is on 'breaking the transfer'.

For further information, contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Bridgend Quiz League

HERE are this week's teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League:

1. On which island country are the Southern Alps?

2. The Cheddar Gorge was an inspiration to write which hymn?

3. How many players are there in a handball team?

The results for December 5 from the Quiz League are as follows:

Crown Maesteg 49; Tondu Railway Club 44; Five Bells A 42, Mackworth Arms 43; Ty Risha Royals 40, Laleston Inn A 46; Oddfellows Arms Bettws 34, Chatterton Shunters 47; Laleston Inn B 45, Pheasant Gamekeepers 45; Pheasant Poachers 42, Cabo Roche 34; Prince of Wales Coychurch 39, Five Bells B 34.

Answers:
1. New Zealand.
2. Rock of Ages.
3. Seven.

NatWest closures

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The news also met with disapproval from Regional AM Suzy Davies. Three branches – Porthcawl, Maesteg and Pencoed – in her region are to close.

Mrs Davies said that Porthcawl was being hit for the second time, having lost HSBC two years ago.

She went on: "This is the borough's main tourist destination for goodness sake and we want visitors to spend their money here."

Of Maesteg, Mrs Davies added: "It was only in May that Maesteg lost its HSBC branch and many of their customers switched to NatWest believing that the bank would remain in the town.

"They must be utterly infuriated now. People who have gone through the hassle of switching banks are now faced with the prospect of doing so again. Banks talk about online and phone banking being available but not everyone is confidence about using on-line banking.

This closure will also leave another gap in Maesteg's main shopping street. It's a kick in the teeth for Talbot Street and for town centre traders, and it came on the weekend when Small Business Saturday is being promoted."

Mrs Davies said that Pencoed would be left in a dire situation if this closure goes ahead.

She said: "NatWest is the last bank standing. Pencoed has seen massive new housing developments in recent years with a corresponding rise in population. So losing the last bank is a severe blow for the residents and traders."

Mrs Davies said that alternative offers like mobile banks visiting the towns once a week would not be an equivalent service and that there is a wider implication for the viability of high streets which are already facing online competition.

If you or a relative will be affected by these closures, then please write to The GEM at editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk with your full contact details.

A sparkling Christmas comes to Porthcawl

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go...

Oh look. It's Father and Mother Christmas.

Elf Les Talon Morris getting ready to do the washing up.

LAST Sunday Father and Mother Christmas rode through Porthcawl town centre on their sleigh, pulled by Rudolf and Prancer.

Santa's Elves were alongside handing out North Pole sweets to the children. They then joined the Porthcawl Christmas event in John St car park, where Father and Mother Christmas gave free gifts to the children.

There was also a town raffle this year with some nice Christmas hampers and other prizes to be won.

The event also included free roasted chestnuts, a snow globe (with free photo) ice rink, and the traditional rodeo reindeer.

All monies raised will be going back into the events fund to help enhance your next event, as well as a donation to the Mayor's charities fund.

The festive spirit was captured in these photographs by David Swidenbank, www.thedogphotographerwales.com.

Busy time for Porthkerry Scouts

1ST PENMARK with Porthkerry Scout group have been busy over the last few months.

Beavers have been designing a zoo for endangered animals. They have had a joint night with Cubs where they learned about Diwali, they lit candles for light and created spaghetti bridges.

There were also investitures with Beavers moving to Cubs. Beavers have also done some junk modelling, built chocolate finger and marshmallow fires to celebrate bonfire night. They have also had a night of magic making wands.

Cubs have held pack forums to discuss activities for the future. They have also attended a district trip to We Are Curious in Bristol where a good time was had by all. They have also been learning about children's rights as part of their Children's Commissioner for Wales badge.

Scouts have taken part in preparing a promotional video for scouting. They have also enjoyed a Hallowe'en party and have done some work on children's rights when they attended a joint night with Cubs.

Three Cubs were invested into Scouts during the evening by abseiling from the roof. Scouts have also developed their own rifle range and have been practicing their shooting. This is a new and welcome resource for the group.

All sections also took part in the Remembrance parade in Rhoose on November 11. There were 52 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers as well as 13 adult leaders and executive members making it a wonderful turn out for the group showing their respect.

The group also attended the Gangshow panto to watch an adaptation of *Hansel and Gretel*. The group's own Explorer Scout and Beaver young leader Lisa Grice superbly played the role of Witch Way. It was a magnificent performance by all involved and the children had a great time.

If anyone would like to lend a hand sorting the Scout post, the hut will be open from 6.30pm today (December 7).

1st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout group will be holding another fundraiser – Shameless at the Social, again on January 13. It was a great night last time and the group hope to see more of you there this time. The tickets are £5 each and there will also be a raffle.

If you would like to know more about the forthcoming events or anything about the group please contact the group scout leader on gsl@penmarkscouts.org.uk. **CR**

SHIP OWNERS TALK

ANYONE with an interest in the local history of Penarth will be delighted to hear that Alan Thorne is giving a talk entitled 'Ship Owners of Penarth' on Thursday, December 14 at 7pm in the parish hall, Albert Road, Penarth.

The illustrated talk will cover the business interests, the wealth and the vessels of this group of people, many of whom lived in some of the biggest and most impressive houses in Penarth.

Mr Thorne will also be talking about the houses ship-owning families lived in, most of which are now only remembered in the names of the roads in which they once stood, for example Dros y Mor.

This event is being organised by the Friends of St Augustine's and entry is on the door: £5, and £4 for members of the Friends. The price includes a glass of a wine and mince pies.

More information at: www.friendsofstaugustines.org.uk. **TG**

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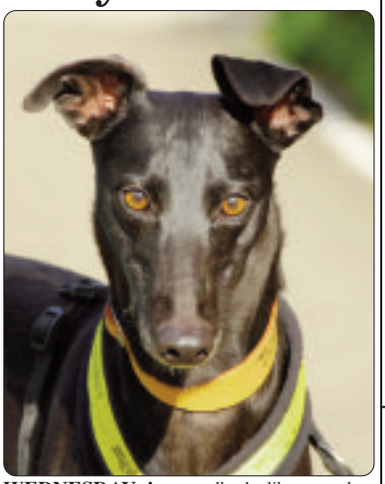
Wednesday needs a home all year round



WEDNESDAY is a four-year-old greyhound. She is sensitive and can be worried when first meeting people.

Her new owners would need to give her time to build up a relationship, but once she has settled in the home, she should make a lovely companion.

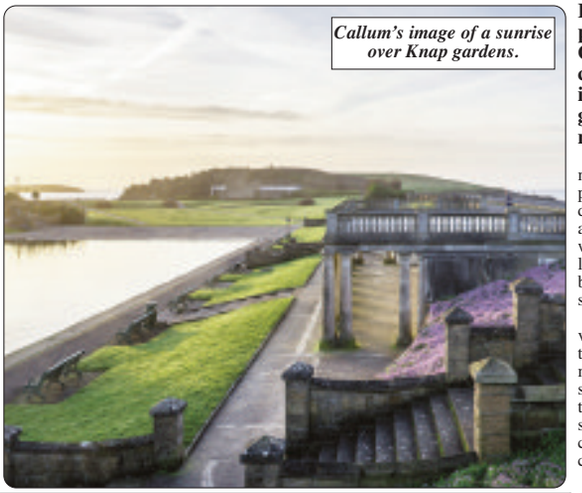
Wednesday walks well on the lead and enjoys a good run off it. After a walk, she likes to curl up on her bed.

She is looking for a quiet home where is she not being left for long hours, and could live with children aged 14 years and over.

If you would like more information on Wednesday, call into Dogs Trust Bridgend, CF31 4NG or call 01656 725219.

Visit www.dogstrust.org.uk for further information.

Restful sunrise over the Knap gardens



Callum's image of a sunrise over Knap gardens.

LOCAL photographer Callum Hamilton captured this image of the Knap gardens early one morning.

He explained: "Like many landscape photographers I'm drawn towards shooting around dawn and dusk when the quality of the light is usually at its best for an atmospheric shot.

"For this particular view, I needed to be there early in the morning. The sun was shining from the left so the flowers caught the sunlight and the columns of the shelter cast shadows.

"I often return to the same spot at different times of the day, different times of the year, and in a change of weather to capture various effects and moods.

"Some thin cloud softened the light and contributed to a restful feeling."

Callum chose this image for the April slot in his calendar for 2018, which captures some of the best views of Barry.

Last year, he featured the Island's Ferris wheel in the calendar, but is relieved he gave it a skip this year after it was taken down.

The calendar is available at Travellers in Mind at Barry station, Marco's Cafe at the Island and Porthkerry, the Lake Shop at the Knap, King Square Post Office, Homemade Wales and Café Cwtch in High Street Shopping Quarter, Selleys One Stop on Park Crescent and the Beach Hut at the Island.

For more information on Callum's work, go to: www.callumhamilton.co.uk.

Getting to grips with the 'Governance Primer'

SETTING up a voluntary group or charity can be a daunting affair.

The governance team at GVS have developed a resource aimed at simplifying this process: The Governance Primer.

While there are lots of fantastic resources available online to support new and emerging groups, taken together these materials can constitute dozens (if not hundreds) of pages.

Our aim was to produce a short, easy to follow document to outline the main steps involved, provide some guidance around each one, and link to some high quality supporting documents.

The Governance Primer contains the following:

From Idea to Action; Trustees; Legal Structures; The Governing Document; Charities; Effective Meetings; Next Steps.

Download the Governance Primer from: www.gvs.wales/support-for-groups/information-services/governance-primer

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS), Tel: 01446 741706, or enquiries@gvs.wales, or www.gvs.wales.

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Out & About with The GEM

BOOK ADAPTATION MAKES FOR A MOST WONDER-FUL FILM!

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

TAKING a book and turning it into a film is not an easy task, as the number of literary adaptations that have floundered over the years is testament to. Even harder is when a book captivates its readership – can a film version ever live up to what's on the page?

That's the battle facing *Wonder*, R J Palacio's 2012 book, which told its story from the point of view of Auggie, a young boy with the facial condition Treacher Collins syndrome, trying to fit into the world, which is now taking the trip to the big screen.

Auggie is played by Jacob Tremblay, and having been homeschooled by his parents (Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson), they make the decision to send him to school. Entering a whole new world, Auggie must face challenges as he finds his way in the world along with new friends...

Wonder is one of my favourite books of the last few years, a truly inspiring and heartwarming story; to try and adapt that and capture that magic for a film is a tricky thing indeed, yet Stephen Chbosky has brought R J Palacio's work to vivid life in what is a gorgeously realised, tender and uplifting story of tackling adversity head on.

Perhaps it's the climate that the film finds itself in, a world where tolerance and acceptance is sadly not the norm, that connects amongst many other things, but at the root of it all is a human story of battling the odds, beating them and doing it in your own inimitable style.

Chbosky's previous film as a director, *The Perks of Being A Wallflower,* has some similarities to this one (people feeling marginalised by their peers for daring to be different or simply being introverted) and he shows a sure handling as a director, maintaining a lovely balance of humour and drama (the *Star Wars* touches are neat and cleverly done) and at a keen pace.

The book's style (passages told from different characters' points of view) is one that could have jarred when brought to screen, but Chbosky and his co-writers handle it with aplomb, and it creates a more rounded story, as we see both how the world has affected Auggie but also how Auggie's life and struggles have inspired and affected those around him.

All the characters are well-served by the story – we get to know them and what they've been up against, whether it's Auggie's sister accepting that she is marginalised due to Auggie's condition, or his mother's inability to finish her thesis due to her homeschooling him; yet resentment never really boils to the surface as it would in many other stories. Instead, everything is handled with a warmth and tenderness that, while perhaps a little too idealised, plays out beautifully within the context of the film.

The performances are wholly engaging, with Jacob Tremblay excellent as Auggie. Tremblay delivered one of the finest young performances in *Room*, and here he is equally as superb, capturing at various points Auggie's weariness with life, his excitement at new opportunities and his emotion at finding his place in the world.

His sister, Via, is also wonderfully portrayed by Izabela Vidovic, doing her best to live a normal life in less-than-normal situation, and also finding her own way to shine alongside Auggie, rather than in spite of him.

Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson are dependable as the parents, Roberts having the greater heavy lifting to do through her relationships with her children, while Wilson offers wisecracks and compassion in the father role, and Noah Jupe (brilliant in the patchy *Suburbicon*), Millie Davies, Mandy Patinkin and Daveed Diggs all offer good support.

There is the sense of some subplots feeling a little under-done (most notably the relationship between Via and her grandmother which, while portrayed here, feels a little glossed over), one of the pitfalls of making the leap from page to screen, but that aside *Wonder* really lives up to its name.

A film that delivers a powerful story with charm and compassion, and also avoids the narrative tricks that films of this ilk may be prone to using, it is a film that will resonate and linger with you long after – you could say it's *Wonder*-ful!

VERDICT: A fine adaptation of a mesmerising book, *Wonder* is a gloriously uplifting and emotional film, handled deftly by director and co-writer Stephen Chbosky. It's message of acceptance and tolerance is delivered gently rather than hammered home, and with some exceptional turns, most notably by Jacob Tremblay as Auggie, it all makes for a really superb piece of work. *Recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Gifted* (2017), *The Perks of Being A Wallflower* (2012).

Artist's latest exhibition

DURING December, local marine artist Nick John Rees will be exhibiting his paintings at Pugh's Garden Village in Wenvoe.

Nick, who lives and works in Sully has just been signed up by his eleventh gallery so is really busy with Christmas exhibitions, including the latest Hearth Gallery exhibition, which is a lovely gallery based in the main plaza in Llandough Hospital.

Much of what will be on display in Pugh's are scenes of the coastline around Wales, both original paintings and signed, limited edition prints.

More details of both exhibitions are available on Nick's website www.nickjohnrees.com.

Olli H Rees

Christmas at Dyffryn Gardens

THIS Christmas, National Trust Wales is opening the doors to its special places, including Dyffryn Gardens.

From wreath-making workshops and winter trails to visits from Father Christmas and giant toy boxes; whether you want a quiet time or a jolly time, there's an event to suit all tastes to help you have a memorable Christmas.

12 Days of Christmas at Dyffryn Gardens until January 7, from 10am-4pm.

The festive trail is back, but with a difference. A new magical display will be placed around the gardens bringing the Christmas song to life. The gardens will be quiet and perfect for exploring every day, except December 25.

There is late night shopping at Dyffryn Gardens on December 8 from 5pm-8pm.

Escape the crowds of the high street and buy some beautiful Christmas gifts for your loved ones. Pick from decorations, scarves, bags, mugs, candles and lots of yummy goodies.

For more information, search for 'Dyffryn Gardens' on the internet.

TS

What's on and where in the area

FocusBARRY meet

THE next meeting of FocusBARRY is on Friday, December 8 in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Barry (7pm).

There is just one item on the agenda: regeneration.

Cllr Jonathan Bird, cabinet member for regeneration and planning will attend to talk to members about his personal ambitions for future projects.

AM's Surgery

VALE of Glamorgan AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on December 9 from 10am – 11am at Barry Citizens' Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street.

No appointment necessary.

Santa at the Library!

SANTA CLAUS will be at Barry Library this Saturday, December 9. Contact the library on 01446 422425 to book a slot between 10am–2.30pm. £3 per child, includes small gift.

The Story of Christmas

ACTORS will perform all the famous and well-loved elements of the Nativity – the searching by Mary and Joseph for a place to stay, the arrival of the Shepherds, the birth of Jesus in the stable, the coming of the Wise Men and even a menacing appearance from King Herod (Boo! Hiss!).

The actors are from the Barry Churches of St Mary's, St Cadoc's, All Saints' and St Paul's.

The Story of Christmas opens at St Mary's Church in Holton Road, Barry next Monday, December 11 and there are performances every day until Saturday, December 16.

Each performance lasts for around 25 minutes: on Monday and Wednesday at 10.30am, 1.15pm and 2.30pm; Tuesday and Thursday at 10.30am, 1.15pm and 6.30pm and on Friday and Saturday at 10.30am and 1.15pm.

All performances are free; many schoolchildren will be coming to the weekday performances and there will be some performances with the soundtrack in Welsh.

Benefits advice

IF you need some advice on benefits such as Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Housing Benefit, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free welfare rights advice service, and can help with form filling.

A session will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at their Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry and no appointment is needed. Come along between 9.30am and 12pm. Call 01446 732385 if you need a home visit.

Free legal advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a free legal session on Tuesday, December 12 from 10am to 12pm.

The session will be held at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry and n appointment is needed.

If you are over 50 and worried about a legal matter (other than criminal law) come along and talk to a local legal team. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Mayor's Christmas do

BARRY Town Mayor, Cllr Nic Hodges will be holding a mulled wine and mince pie event on Wednesday, December 13 at 4pm to 6pm in the Council Chamber at Barry Town Council Offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry (CF62 8NA). All proceeds in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Ty Hafan.

For more information contact 01446 704921 or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Round Table dinner

AN evening of dinner, drinks and entertainment will take place at Barry Town United Club this Christmas.

Members of Barry Round Table are inviting guests to the Jenner Suite, at Barry Town United Club on Barry Road from 12pm on Saturday, December 16.

People are also welcome to bring a friend or family member and transport can be arranged. The Round Table, in partnership with Barry Santa Sleigh, is also organising the 2017 Santa Sleigh around the streets of Barry from December 4 to 21.

For more information call Barrie on 07854 235430, or take a look at its website.

Christmas cake sale

FRIENDS of Penarth Library are having a Christmas cake sale on Saturday, December 16 at the library in Stanwell Road from 10am onwards.

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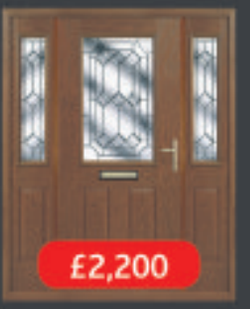

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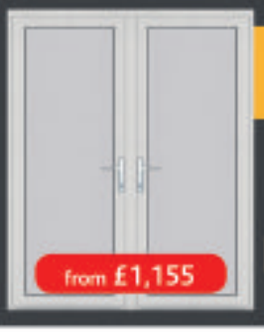

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH

PARK CRESCENT & THE KNAP

CHRISTMAS COMES TO PARK CRESCENT!

Holly and Alli at BLush.

Matthew Cullen at Barry Security centre.

A great range of stock at A&A Dancewear.

PARK CRESCENT is a key thoroughfare in Barry, a popular route down to the relaxing Knap gardens, the attractions of the Island, and the open spaces of picturesque Romilly Park – but this year it will look a little different, because Barry Town Council has made cash available for Christmas Lights!

Barry Town Council has extended its funding towards the Christmas Lights and activities at the three main shopping areas in Barry; Holton Road, High Street/ Island Road and Park Crescent.

The lights are already on at High Street and Holton Road and Park Crescent will be joining in the Christmas spirit by being lit up from tomorrow (Friday, December 8), and throughout the festive period.

It's good to see the host of long-established family businesses, all providing top services for local people and visitors to the town, get some extra help at Christmas from this new lighting.

People love the buzz and friendliness of the area, and also the range of shops..

At The Sash boutique, Samantha specialises in bridal alterations and chair coverings, and her expertise in the bridal wear work means that she has clients from Cardiff and around the Vale, and Bridgend.

She has been in her Park Crescent premises since February, and before that was further down the road for six years.

Next January, she is launching a new service, entitled 'Amour Once More' which will offer pre-loved dresses for bridal and special occasion wear.

Close by in the Crescent by is BLush Beauty Boutique, where owner Holly is expecting a busy Christmas.

She and her assistant Alli offer treatments including Shellac nails, eyebrows, spray tan, massage and micro-dermabrasion.

With the festive season in mind, late evening appointments can be made, although they are there until 7.30pm on a Thursday and Friday as a matter of course.

BLush has weekly special offers throughout the year, publicised on its Facebook page.

Further up Park Crescent is the Park public house – a pub in the true sense of the word in that it specialises in beer, skittles and all the traditional aspects of a local pub – including a function room.

Landlord James Pruce has been in charge of the Brains house for three years now, offering sport on TV (The Park has both Sky and BT) and regular live music nights.

Also in the brewing business, but on a smaller scale than Brains, is Pam Gilbert at Home Brew, down the hill from The Park.

Pam has regulars who love to refine their home brewing technique, and has years of experience in the trade, and plenty of good advice to offer.

She said: "We have starter kits for beer, wines, lager and spirits too.

"We stock the turbo yeast that anyone looking to produce their own gin or brandy will need."

Further down the hill on St Nicholas Road is Tulip Bridal, where Theresa Pereira, the owner of Tulip Bridal Wear, has ample parking for customers – and a great range of stylish wedding dresses.

In fact, she recently became an agent for the sought-after and well-established 'Tres Chic' brand, and she believes she is the first in the area to have the designer's stylish offerings in stock!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Blonde ambition
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients
Thank you for all your support.
The Salon, 117 Park Crescent, Barry, CF62 6HE
Tel: 01446 738674 www.blondeinbarry.co.uk

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Extensive range of bouquets, handties, planted. Christmas wreaths & floral tributes
Orders taken for Christmas...
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The Sash Boutique
Vintage & Contemporary Event Decor
Wedding & event chair covers, unique & handmade designs. Centrepieces, backdrops & lighting
Full alteration services for wedding gowns, bridal party & special occasion wear.
NEW FOR 2018
Armour Once More
Pre loved wedding dresses.
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07706 850473 • www.sashboutique.co.uk

My Favourite Pet Shop
120 Park Crescent, Barry
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More than a pet shop & funky pup pet boutique
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• Frozzy's frozen dog yoghurt
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The latest in Dog Clothing...
by Urban Pup, fabulous dresses & harnesses, Adidog T-shirts & hoodies.

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• Professional Dog Grooming • Hand Stripping
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We treat all dogs with care, consideration & gentleness.
Now offering Full Spa treatments and Emmipet Ultrasonic Teeth Cleaning

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Professional Pet Care
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Our services include: • Home Boarding with licensedboarders • Dog Waking • House Sitting • Home visiting • CRB checked & insured
10% Discount on purchases for My Favourite Petshop
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10% OFF with this advert
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Offer valid until 31.1.18
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www.Blushbeautyboutique.co.uk

The Home Brew Centre
Everything for wine & beer making
Wine kits & Beer starting kits
Ideal Christmas gifts
Open Tues, Thurs and Fri 1pm - 5pm
Saturday 10 - 2pm
2 Park Crescent, Barry, CF62 6HD
01446 732765

Sarah's Fresh Fruit & Veg
Fresh Christmas Trees & Decorative Wreaths
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Fresh fruit & vegetable boxes. Free Delivery.
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115 Park Crescent, Barry

THE DEMON BARBER
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Traditional Fish & Chip Bar
Established 1960
Open Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December
Open Monday - Saturday 11.30am-1.45pm and 5pm-10pm.
Fish 'n' Chips our speciality!
OAP's Special
Fish 'n' Chips £3.50
Large parties catered for • 2 Vale Street (Off Park Crescent), Barry
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Celebrate Christmas with Park Crescent & The Knap

Christmas in Park Crescent

Beautiful silver jewellery at Chic Creations.

Annette and Sue at 'Cutting It By Sue' want to thank all their customers for their business this year, and wish eveyone a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

All you need to make it yourself at Home Brew

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Tulip has plans to add an extra string to its bow in January, opening a new room in the existing premises featuring pre-loved occasion wear, cocktail dresses and prom dresses too.

My Favourite Pet Shop is a very popular pet shop and dog boutique with people visiting from across south Wales.

Alison, the owner, has been at Park Crescent for eight years and she clearly loves animals, as she runs three businesses there.

"When I opened My Favourite Pet Shop, I wanted to offer people something very different from the traditional pet shop" said Alison.

"We sell products for all pets and wild birds but 80 per cent of the shop is dedicated to dogs."

The shop offers a great range of healthy Natural products for pets including Just Natural, Nutriment and Natures Menu Raw Food, Tribal Cold Pressed Food, Eden complete and a range of other dog food. They also offer a delivery service.

"I love shopping for interesting things," says Alison and this is reflected in the range of products available for pooches.

From pyjamas, jewellery, hair decoration, hats, socks & boots for dogs and warm winter jumpers including hand knitted ones, to beautiful collars, leads and harnesses.

"We are thrilled this year to offer a great range of full body dog coats."

Of course, as you would expect from a modern shop, there is a great selection of Christmas gifts for pets. "We are opening a boutique within the pet shop called Funky Pup Dog boutique to reflect the range of funky products stocked!"

Next door is the popular dog grooming salon, Sleek & Chic. "We renovated the salon this year and it is now light and airy. We had bespoke dog pens built in the window area so that dogs are not caged but can look out of the window for their owner."

With a staff of five experienced dog groomers, Sleek & Chic offers a grooming service to suit all dogs.

"We now offer a full spa treatment too for dogs, including blueberry facials, pawdicures, mud baths for itchy skin and painted stencil work. We have also introduced a teeth cleaning service using a non invasive procedure called Emmipet ultrasonic treatment."

Finally, a satellite office for Care 4 Pets sits within MFPS. Now trading for 17 years, Care 4 Pets offers services of home boarding, dog walking, home sitting and visiting with experienced, insured and licensed staff.

Definitely, pop into My Favourite Pet Shop and it could become "your" Favourite Pet Shop!

Hairdressing and beauty is a strong theme in Park Crescent.

One business that has built up a loyal clientele over a 15-year period is 'Cutting It by Sue' based at 116b Park Crescent.

The salon caters for ladies, men and children. People can either walk in, or phone up and book a specific appointment.

The Demon Barbers, at 124 Park Crescent, is a thriving barber open six days a week, which has been in business for 24 years, so they all know something about keeping their customers happy.

There are six members of staff so you can imagine the jokes and banter! They are all fully qualified and 'time served'.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Meet the team at Demon Barbers.

A striking display at Florantina.

IRENE'S SUPPER BAR
OAP Special
Mini Cod & Chips £3.10
OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE
Sunday 24th December
Fish - our speciality
Cod, Haddock, Plaice, Scampi
plus lots more...
Chicken • Sausages • Pies • Curry
Open every day. Sat-Fri lunchtimes & evenings. Sun - evenings.
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UNISEX HAIR SALON
MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO MY CUSTOMERS
Christmas Hair appointments now being taken
Stockists of Schwarkopf products.
Providing a friendly service. Booking advisable.
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A&A Dancewear
We fit - you perform
(Established over 20 years)
Wishing all our much appreciated customers a
Happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year
We are open
Saturday 23rd December until 4pm
Closed for Christmas break and will re-open on
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MR VILLA'S
FISH & CHIP RESTAURANT AND OYSTER BAR
Open lunchtimes Tuesday – Friday midday – 2.30pm. Tuesday – Thursday evening 5.30 – 9pm
Friday 5.30 – 9.30pm • Saturday open all day 12 – 9.30pm • Sunday 12 – 4.30pm • Roast served every Sunday

Lunch Menu for Christmas Parties
(to include a glass of Prosecco on arrival)
Salmon Fishcake with Lemon and Butter Sauce
Smoked Salmon with Lemon & Dill Creme Fraiche
A Salad of Warm Goats Cheese with Sun Blushed Tomatoes & a Balsamic Reduction
Battered Cod & Chips
Braised Pheasant with Chestnuts, Red Wine & Thyme
Pan Fried Chicken with a Wild Mushroom Sauce
King Prawns with Garlic Butter
Cannelloni stuffed with Tomatoes and Roasted Vegetables in a Bechamel Sauce
Roasted Salmon with Tomatoes and Basil
Mrs Villa's Christmas Pudding & Brandy Butter
Caramelised Oranges and Double Cream
Raspberry and Almond Bakewell with Double Cream
£19.50 per person

Dinner Menu for Christmas Parties
(to include a glass of Prosecco on arrival)
Fresh Crab Bisque • Chicken Liver Pate
King Prawns with Garlic Butter
A Salad of Warm Goats Cheese with Sun Blushed Tomatoes & a Balsamic Reduction
Calamari with Homemade Tartare Sauce
Roasted Duck with Apricot & Almond Stuffing & Roasted Vegetables
Chicken Breast with a Wild Mushroom Sauce
Roasted Hake with a Beurre Blanc • Battered Cod & Chips
Pheasant Braised with Chestnuts, Red Wine & Thyme
A Vegetarian Trio of Baked Stuffed Peppers, Spinach & Cream Cheese Pancake & Roasted Stuffed Mushrooms
Mrs Villa's Christmas Pudding & Brandy Butter
Caramelised Oranges and Cream
Raspberry and Strawberry Trifle • Chocolate & Orange Mousse • Hazelnut & Raspberry Meringue
£26.50 per person

All main courses served with a choice of Chips, Mashed or New Boiled Potatoes
Booking from 20th November. Parties of 6 or more a pre-order is required.
BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN
Bron Y Mor, The Knap, Barry, CF62 6SW
Tel: 01446 730662

Celebrate Christmas with Park Crescent & The Knap

So many shops in Park Crescent

Sash Boutique can solve bridal wear problems.

Mr Villas on The Knap offers fine food.

Tulip Bridal has a new line by Trés Chic.

Good beer and live music at The Park.

Kitchen For Living will be opening in January

ABOVE: Sarah's Fruit and Veg has holly wreaths and Christmas trees.

My Favourite Pet Shop cares for your pets.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Steve said: "We are open from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and 9am to 4.30pm on Saturday.

"From 9am until 3pm, Monday to Friday, we do special deals for senior citizens."

Specialist businesses are at the heart of Park Crescent. They provide more in-depth products and services than supermarkets could ever wish to.

A case in point is Barry Security Centre run by Matthew Cullen.

He explained: "The business was started in Barry in 1976 by Doug Hucker. My dad took it over in 1991, and I joined in 2000.

"We've been on Park Crescent for eight years now.

"We do key-cutting, lock-outs, lock changes on PVC doors and wooden doors, and can install locks on doors where the locks are obsolete."

The business can fit alarm systems, both commercial and domestic. It also supplies a range of domestic safes.

Matthew said: "We'll do a free quote and I'll arrange for my engineer to fit it."

Florantina Florists is owned by Ann Caesar who is related to the previous owners the Kellaway family.

At Christmas time, Florantina comes into its own with a selection of holly wreaths and a wide variety of festive floral decorations. The shop is a dazzling array of colour.

What is the secret of its 27-year success?

Ann said: "We provide quality arrangements and will do same day delivery that can sometimes be ready within an hour.

"The shop is open six days a week, from Monday to Friday. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday we trade from 8.30am to 5.30pm, and on Wednesday and Saturday from 8.30am until 4pm."

Accounting services to meet your needs

TAXASSIST ACCOUNTANTS is a family-run business looking after the accountancy needs of small businesses and individuals in Cardiff and Barry.

Russell Charles has been a practicing accountant since 1992 and, in partnership with his wife Katherine, their three offices provide a range of services including tax returns, annual accounts, payroll and bookkeeping.

Both Russell and Katherine were born and brought up in Barry and have lived in Cardiff for more than 30 years. They have been running their own business for more than 25 years and know first-hand the challenges faced by small businesses and tailor their services accordingly.

With its fixed fee policy and flexible payment options, TaxAssist Accountants helps a diverse range of small businesses including sole traders, landlord, limited companies and start-ups in many industries.

For more information about how TaxAssist Accountants can help you save money and develop your business, contact Russell and Katherine today on 01446 597980; 11 Park Crescent, CF62 6HD.

Tulip Bride
Celebrating our 4th anniversary
View our range of wedding gowns by Enzoani and Phoenix plus
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TRÈS CHIC
Wanted.
Pre loved evening gowns, prom dresses & special occasion wear. To be sold by us for you on a commission basis.
All sizes available. Friendly, experienced staff
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The perfect gift for Christmas:
Selection of Sterling Silver jewellery
Necklaces, bracelets, rings & earrings
10% OFF all jewellery with this advert
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Cutting It by Sue
Qualified Hairdressing by qualified
A Merry Christmas & a happy new year
Thank you to all my loyal customers for their continued support!
Sue & Annette
Open Tues to Fri 8am - 4.30pm; Monday and Saturday 8am - 1pm. Closed Wednesdays.
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Grand Opening
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Chic, contemporary, bespoke kitchens for your home and lifestyle.
Comprehensive service, from planning to fit.
Join us to celebrate the launch!
7 Park Crescent, Barry CF62 6HD
Tel: 07561 424544

THE PARK
Park Crescent, Barry
Live Music
Thursday 21st December
OUTBACK
Friday 22nd December
THE HINDENBURGS
Saturday 23rd December
THE FLARES
Friday 29th December
STRATOSFEAR
A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year to all our customers
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FILCO market

GREAT WINTER

DEALS

£3 BOX OF 30

Walkers Variety Box 30x25g

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McVitie's Chocolate Digestives Post Box Tin 400g
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£5 EACH

Quality Street Tub 750g
Heroes Tub 660g, Roses 660g
Celebrations 680g

£2.49 £4.99

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50P EACH

Carrots 1kg/Potatoes 1.5kg/Brussels Sprouts 500g/
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£7.99 PER KG

PRICE HELD FROM 2016

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SPECIAL OFFER ON RUMP STEAK

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Carlsberg 12x440ml
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£7 EACH

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Heritage Wine 75cl

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FILCO market

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

An expert's advice could help to avoid any dispute

BRENDAN SWEENEY, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population does not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death, and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

DAVID PROSSER & CO
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Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Probate and Estate Disputes & Administration
WE ARE A LOCAL, WELL ESTABLISHED LEGAL PRACTICE
We will:
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- Respond promptly to your enquiries
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Please contact Brendan Sweeney.
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E-Mail: brendansweeney@davidprosser.co.uk
3 Court Road, Bridgend CF31 1BL
David Prosser & Co is the trading name of DP Law Limited.

Great Christmas offers at Rio

THIS Christmas why not treat yourself and visit Rio of Llantwit Major.

You will find a winter Wonderland of beautiful designer clothing and a fabulous collection of Sterling Silver Jewellery, plus bags and accessories.

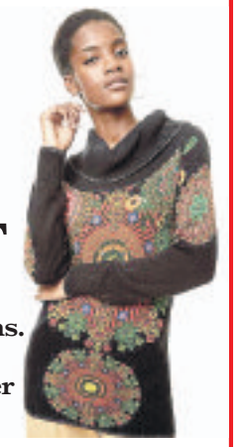
This season's clothing collections consist of the designer collections Desigual, Joe Browns, Pomodoro, Adini and many more exciting guest collections introduced every season.

Rio Silver Jewellery was launched in 2006 and has now become a large part of the original business. The contemporary style collection has proved very popular and will continue to expand.

This year's Christmas sale starts on December 7, at which you will find up to 25 per cent off selected ranges of clothing.

This December, Rio will be open on Christmas Eve, Sunday, from 10.30am - 4pm

So a very Merry Christmas to all my lovely valued customers, new and old... Love Tina x

Rio
CHRISTMAS SALE
UP TO 25% OFF
selected collections. From December 7th-24th

East Street, Llantwit Major
01446 794500
Find us on facebook.

Plan for the future with Passmores...

PASSMORES, one of Barry's most reputable and longstanding firms of solicitors, would like to encourage all people to plan ahead to avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the latest version of the forms. A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enable a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority. This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans of Passmores Solicitors (member of Solicitors for the Elderly and also the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners) is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements should contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no-obligation appointment on 01446 721000 or by email ce@passmores.com.

PASSMORES
PASSMORES SOLICITORS
MAKE AN LPA NOW
- Can you afford not to?
Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family is no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?
A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document, that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.
Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is inviting you to attend a no obligation appointment to find out more.
For more information please call:
Carli Evans on 01446 721000
or by email ce@passmores.com.
SOLICITORS FOR THE ELDERLY
21 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB

Christmas comes early at Samantha B!

YOU really can have your mince pie and eat it! Treat yourself to an early present – from me to me – by taking advantage of the pre-Christmas 30 per cent sale.

Whether you're looking for something for New Year's Eve or a great winter coat, come and have a look at what's on offer.

Highlights include a few pairs of the seasonal Marble jeans in lovely autumn colours and if you're lucky, we may have your size.

There will be rare opportunities to snap up a Bianca jacket or an Olsen jumper and if you haven't experienced the quality of these brands, the sale is a great time to try.

The last remaining Poppy jumpers, polo necks and turtle necks are also available from just £5!

Adini dresses and tunics are also super for this time of year and with 30 per cent off, a real bargain.

Call in and see for yourself, enjoy a glass of sherry at the same time and a complimentary wrapping service throughout December.

Samantha B
Ladies Fashions and Accessories
SALE STARTS FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER
30% OFF ALL STOCK!
MARBLE, POMODORO, HUDSON & ONSLOW, BIANCA, OLSEN, ADINI.
Offer excludes Marble & Olsen Jeans

4 Wick Road, Ewenny, CF35 5BL
Tel 01656 658388
OPEN MON-SAT 10AM-5PM

Dinas Powys retains 'Fairtrade Village' status

DINAS Powys has held on to its Fairtrade status for another two years.

The local group celebrated at last Friday's Dickensian evening, offering Fairtrade prizes to those who found them on their village 'treasure map' and publicising their survey findings for the most 'Fairtrade-friendly' local supermarkets.

The group will now work with more community groups and businesses through its campaigns, including the UK-wide Fairtrade Fortnight in February. The group is taking its crusade to the major neighbouring supermarkets, talking about their products and the reported demand from Dinas Powys villagers.

They will also, said a spokesperson, "...be rating them informally according to their Fairtrade friendliness".

Dinas Powys was first awarded the Fairtrade status in 2010 based on the products on sale in local shops and catering outlets and support from local people, businesses, the council, faith groups and schools.

Cllr John Fanshaw of the Dinas Powys Community Council said: "We are delighted to support our village group and are committed to using Fairtrade as a council and encouraging users of our halls to use Fairtrade products wherever they can."

For more information, visit the group's Facebook page or Twitter @DPfairtrade, or email dinaspowysfairtrade@gmail.com.

FS

LEFT: The friendly, albeit Dickensian, face of a Fairtrade village.

Crafty, Christmassy college

From left: Jed Smith and Mackenzie Webber at the CAVC stall at the Cardiff Christmas market.

STUDENTS from Cardiff and Vale College have raised £250 for Llandough Hospital's Breast Care Unit by making craft items and selling them at the Christmas Market on the Hayes in Cardiff.

The CAVC Heart Pillow Project, supported by the College's Be Epic enrichment team, brought students with additional learning needs to work shifts at a stall in the Hayes.

The Heart Pillow Project is the brainchild of CAVC Fashion students, and is an ongoing scheme that started in 2013 and is taken up by incoming students each year. The students make heart-shaped pillows which can be tucked under the arm to ease pain for people who have been operated on for breast cancer to raise money for cancer treatment charities.

ASTRONOMY CORNER by NORMAN LLOYD.

The majesty of Orion

THE constellation of Orion is surely the most majestic in our southern winter skies.

Orion, the hunter, is holding up a club in his right hand and a shield held in his left hand. The star Betelgeuse, positioned at his right shoulder looks noticeably red to the naked eye. Betelgeuse is a red supergiant star three to four times that of our Sun; it's an end of life star which is ultimately destined to explode in a supernova. It is so far away that the light from the explosion will take 500 years to reach us, so it may have already happened!

Located at the bottom hem of Orion's skirt is Rigel, a blue supergiant which is 1000 light years away. The three stars in Orion's belt are even further away at 1,500 light years.

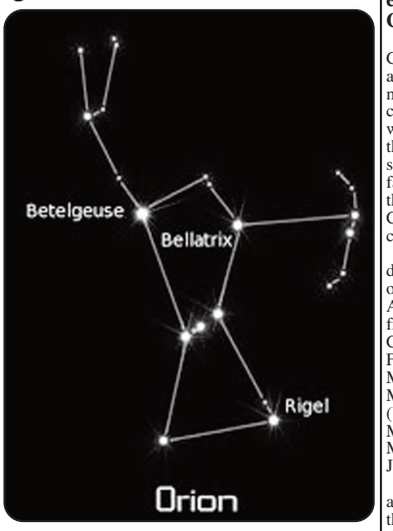
The famously photographed Horsehead Nebula, a pillar of dust in the shape of a chess board knight, lies just below the belt. Beneath the central star in the belt lies Orion's sword which contains a region of star formation known as The Orion Nebula – a beautiful sight even with binoculars, due to the ultraviolet radiation from the hot young stars causing coloured light to be emitted from ionised oxygen and hydrogen.

The Orion mystery: If you look at an aerial picture of the pyramid site at Giza, south-west of Cairo, it is noticeable that the three pyramids are imperfectly positioned. This misalignment has been a source of confusion for many years. Classical Egyptologists maintained that it was either a mistake, or a result of the terrain in the Giza Plateau. If the alignment is compared to the three stars in Orion's belt, however, things become a little clearer.

Far from being a mistake, the relative sizes and detailed positioning of the Giza pyramids are a faithful mimicry of the three stars forming Orion's belt. Not only that, the recently discovered 'air shafts' in the pyramids actually point directly towards Orion, with the apparent aim of projecting the soul of the deceased king out towards the constellation.

The ancient Egyptians practiced a solar religion, based on the worship of Ra. This cult of Ra was an offshoot of a much more ancient stellar religion. The sole aim in the life of the King was his successful return to the fabled First Time, Zep Tepi, a golden age when the gods ruled in their country and during which the waters of the abyss receded, the primordial darkness banished and humanity, emerging into the light, was offered the gifts of civilization.

The pyramids, far from being a memorial or commemorative tomb, were, perhaps, the starting point of this greatest of journeys.



The constellation of Orion.

Do you know the way to San José?

THE answer is easy: fly KLM from Cardiff Airport.

KLM – one of Cardiff's longest serving airlines – has added more long-haul connections to its worldwide schedule for the coming winter season, making travel to far flung destinations all the more accessible for Cardiff Airport's customers.

Seven new destinations will be operated by KLM from Amsterdam Schiphol from this winter: Cartagena (Colombia); Freetown (Sierra Leone); Mauritius (Republic of Mauritius); Minneapolis (United States); Monrovia (Liberia); Mumbai (India); and San José (Costa Rica).

These new routes are accessible with up to three direct flights per day from Cardiff to Amsterdam Schiphol all year round.

KLM's route network now includes a one-stop connection to Orlando, Florida, as the result of a codeshare partnership with KLM and Delta. Operating from March 2018, customers planning a once in a lifetime trip to Walt Disney World or the Wizarding World of Harry Potter will be able to book flights through KLM and Delta, departing on our daily services.

Deb Barber, CEO of Cardiff Airport, said: "KLM plays a vital role in promoting connectivity to and from Wales.

"KLM's partnership with Delta and Air France, plus the wealth of other connections, has added even more choice and will be of huge benefit to our customers."

Festive anti-drug and drink-driving campaign launched

WELSH police forces launched a month-long nationwide anti-drink and drug-driving campaign on December 1.

The message was clear: drive under the influence and you risk your licence, your job, your liberty, your life, and the lives of others.

In 2016, more than 18,000 people in Wales were stopped and tested for driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Within south Wales, there were 181 positive, refused or failed results recorded. In addition, a further 55 drivers tested positive for driving under the influence of drugs.

If you suspect someone is driving while unfit to do so, report it immediately to police on 101 (or 999 if they are posing imminent danger) or phone it through anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

advertisement feature

Diarrhoea, flatulence, bloating or abdominal pain?

The riddle of recurring intestinal problems

The cause of recurring intestinal problems often resembles a guessing game – for doctors as well as for people affected. Recently, research has shown: in many cases the reason is an Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Fortunately, there is a promising relief called Kijimea IBS. And it is now available in the UK.

For a very long time, the causes of recurring intestinal problems were a mystery to scientists. Recently, they found a possible answer: symptoms such as diarrhoea, bloating, flatulence or abdominal pain could be a sign for an irritated bowel, the so called Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Today, experts are increasingly convinced that IBS may be caused by small damages in the intestinal barrier. These might allow pollutants and pathogens to enter the intestinal wall, triggering the typical IBS symptoms.

Effective help for IBS sufferers

The good news is, a group of renowned scientists made a discovery: A globally unique bifidobacterium (B. bifidum MIMBb75) – contained only in Kijimea IBS. This bacterial strain attaches itself directly to the surface of the intestinal wall. Symbolically, it covers the damaged intestinal wall like a plaster and forms a protective layer.

Promising study results

The effectiveness of Kijimea IBS has been shown in a clinical study: During the study IBS symptoms did not only significantly improve due to Kijimea IBS, but in some cases also stopped. Furthermore, the unique bifidobacterium is the only one worldwide that simultaneously showed an increase in the quality of life of IBS patients.

Now available in the UK – Kijimea IBS

Kijimea IBS may help patients with an irritated bowel to leave their everyday worries behind. In many other countries, Kijimea IBS has already proven to be successful. This product is now available in the UK, too. Kijimea IBS is prescription free and has no known side effects.

Kijimea IBS is brand-new!

It is only available by order over the pharmacist counter at

- your independent pharmacy or Superdrug pharmacy
- Boots (via the Alliance wholesale system) or
- online at www.chemistdirect.co.uk and www.amazon.co.uk

SHOW THIS COUPON TO YOUR PHARMACIST TO ORDER KIJIMEA FOR YOU!

Dear Pharmacist, Kijimea IBS is new on the UK market. If you cannot find it in your own supplier system, please make a special order through the Alliance wholesale system.

KIJIMEA IBS
PIP Code: 404-3170

The photo in this advertisement contains models, not IBS patients. If symptoms worsen and/or persist, consult a doctor. For more information visit www.kijimea.co.uk

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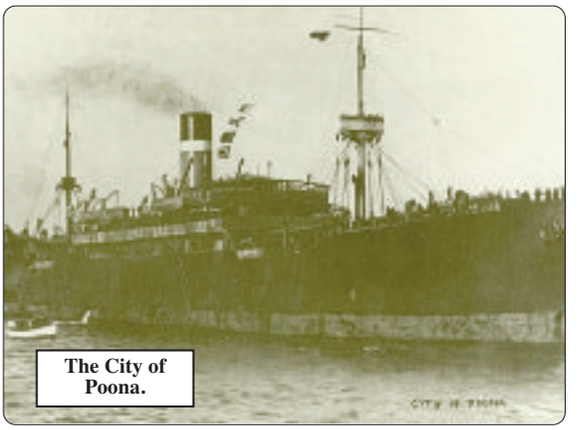
Life on the Home Front in Porthcawl – 100 years ago

Porthcawl Fire Brigade.

Globe Inn, date unknown.

T. E. Lawrence.



The City of Poona.

LOCAL historian Ceri Joseph of Porthcawl Museum continues her look at life in the town 100 years ago, during World War One. This month, she looks at December 1917.

THE consequences of the previous month unfolded throughout December.

In the Middle East, after intense fighting at Gaza, Jerusalem surrendered to British Forces on December 8 and in an act of humility and respect for the significance of the city, Allenby entered Jerusalem on foot through the Jaffa Gate on December 11 accompanied by TE Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia, who stated later in life that 'for me it was the supreme moment of the war.'

Working for British Intelligence Lawrence, who had lived and fought with the Arabs, led guerilla attacks on the Turkish Army, thus weakening their defence of Jerusalem and enabling Allenby's forces to succeed.

On the eastern Front, the new Russian Bolshevik regime suspended all hostilities and after armistice negotiations were opened up with Germany, an official truce was declared on December 7 which was extended to Bulgaria, Austria-Hungary and Turkey, on December 15.

It is interesting to note that during the upheaval, Finland declared independence on December 6. As a result of the truce, German Generals were able to transfer 50 divisions to the western Front, thus increasing their strength in readiness for the spring offensive; also known as 'Kaiserschlacht' or Ludendorff Offensive, which would commence on March 21, 1918.

Early in December 1917, two Porthcawlians perished on the Western Front.

Private Edwin James Smart, Highland Light Infantry, died of his wounds at No 64 Casualty Clearing Station on December 4. Edwin was born one of five children in Cardiff in 1884 to Edwin and Lavinia Smart.

His father was a wood cutting machinist, a trade that young Edwin later pursued. The family home was King's Norton, Worcestershire but around 1910, young Edwin moved to Neath to work as a wood machinist.

It was at this time that he met Richard Howe, who was working as a timber-man in a colliery outside Porthcawl. Edwin soon met Richard's daughter, Isabella, whom he married in 1912, took up work in Porthcawl and moved to 21 Queen's Avenue, where daughter Margaret was born in July 1915.

At Nottingham, Edwin joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in August 1916 and was posted to France with the regiment in July 1917, whereupon at some point before his death on December 4 he had been transferred to the 16th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry.

Private Edwin James Smart is buried in Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium, previously the site of the 64th CC Station.

Edwin's brother in law, Sergeant Oliver Howe had served in Gallipoli with the Motor Transport Army Service Corps, which he joined on January 5, 1915. Before the war, while working for the GWR as a signalman in Porthcawl, Oliver served with the 3rd Battalion Welsh Regiment (Special Reserve) February 1908 – February 1914.

As a result of contracting a fever while in Gallipoli, Oliver was invalided home and spent the rest of the war years as an Army instructor in Bedford, until his discharge on April 4, 1919.

After the war, Oliver served as a fireman with the Porthcawl Fire Brigade. He died in 1960, aged 74.

Lance Corporal Edwin Percival Stradling 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment had been wounded by shrapnel while taking up rations to a Company on November 10 and was immediately admitted to hospital, where he underwent what was perceived as a successful operation.

The following week he wrote home to his brother, Ernest Stradling, Cycle Shop, New Road, stating that he was progressing well and was looking forward to coming home for Christmas. Yet complications set in and Percy died on December 6, 1917.

Percy had been born the last of five children, in Barry in 1898, to William and Mary Stradling. At the time of his birth, his father William had been a railway clerk but by 1911 had become a 'cycling agent': a trade that his son Ernest took up following his father's death in 1913, when he opened The Cycle Shop on Station Hill.

Percy also worked in the shop until he enlisted in the Welsh Regiment in June 1916, being posted to the western Front early in 1917. Lance Corporal Edwin Percival Stradling was 19 years old at the time of his death, and is buried at Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France.

Interestingly, on October 26, 1916 his brother Ernest had been conscripted into the Motor Transport Army Service Corps at Bridgend. He was posted to Isleworth but due to severe arthritis, from which he had suffered since 1905, he was discharged on October 31, 1917; returned home to his wife Annie and three children and continued with his business.

On December 15, 1917, Sergeant Meredith Rowden, 31st Canadian Infantry won the Distinguished Conduct Medal for extreme bravery at Vimy Ridge. He was promoted to Company Sergeant Major in the field a fortnight later and his DCM was in the London Gazette in April 1918.

Meredith had been born on March 16, 1879, in Newton Village, one of six sons born to Edward and Selina Rowden. After working first as a servant in Merthyr Mawr, and then as a coal miner, he emigrated to Quebec in November 1912 on the *SS Lake Manitoba* from Liverpool.

He settled in Calgary, where he continued to work as a miner until he enlisted in the 63rd Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force on June 21, 1915. His regiment sailed for France on March 23, 1916 where they fought and defended Vimy Ridge for the rest of their war.

On October 8, 1918 as the Allied advance pushed further into Belgium, Company Sergeant Major Rowden was on board the Canadian troop ship *City of Poona* on his way home to Calgary, where he married Eliza Gourley, a Scottish immigrant in June 1925, but died at Drumheller, Alberta, on September 12, 1928.

Finally, at home donations for the fund for 'Christmas Gifts to Porthcawl Men on Active Service Abroad' which had been collected at the National Provincial Bank, John Street, were efficiently directed toward assembling packages which were sent to the front 'to cheer our boys up.'

Another positive event was the marriage of Private Leonard Sutton Higgins (RAMC) to Miss Gwendoline Rees of Gilfach Goch. The Rev T Holmes Morgan officiated at the service on December 15 at St John's Church, Newton. Leonard Higgins, one of three children, was born in Margam on May 7, 1892 to Tom and Mary Higgins.

Soon after, the family moved to Bryncethin as Tom had secured a teaching post at Bryncethin Junior School, where he eventually became the headmaster.

Leonard eventually followed in his father's footsteps, initially studying at a college in London before the war. During the war he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps, during which time he was wounded.

Following the war he gained an MA Degree and pursued teaching as a career, ending up as the first headmaster of Porthcawl Secondary School in 1933.

In 1951, for Services to Education, Leonard received an OBE in the King's Honours List. Unfortunately, it seems that his marriage to Gwendoline did not last, as he got married again in 1946 to Gwenda Everson. Gwendoline Rees died in 1977.

When Leonard retired in 1953, he continued researching the history of our town and as evidenced when reading his books (especially 'Newton, Nottage and Porthcawl' (From Prehistoric Times to 1950)' published in 1968, he will ever be revered as the town's foremost historian. Leonard and Gwenda lived at 5 South Road, Porthcawl, where he died on April 23, 1982.

Lastly, the wounded soldiers at the Rest Home enjoyed a special dinner provided by Messrs Walter Conrad and Charles Thomas of Cardiff Docks.

Attired as Father Christmas they visited each ward and presented each Tommy with a silver-mounted amber cigarette holder, a walking stick, an ounce of tobacco and a packet of cigarettes. They also provided a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for both staff and patients.

Following the success and response to the first book of articles 'A Garrison Town 'July 1914 – April 1916,' I have compiled a second book: 'Mud and Men' May 1916 – December 1917, which is now on sale at the museum at £10. All proceeds to Porthcawl Museum.

CERI JOSEPH

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Farmers' union's charity quiz night

From left: quizmaster Lorraine Howells and FUW Glamorgan administrative assistant Christine Anstee.

THE Glamorgan branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) held a successful President's charity quiz night, raising funds for Alzheimer's Society Cymru and the Farming Community Network (FCN).

The event was held on November 24 at Heol Y Cyw Rugby Club and raised £415.

Former FUW vice-president Lorraine Howells was the quizmaster on the night, which was a well-attended and enjoyable evening.

FUW Glamorgan CEO Rachel Saunders said: "People were very generous with their time and donations so we had a successful raffle as well and I would like to thank everyone who attended, donated money or a raffle prize.

"The winning quiz team kindly donated their prize money in the name of Philip Locke, for which we are very grateful."

Lorraine Howells added: "It remains a priority for us to support these two charities and I'm pleased that we have started our fundraising efforts in the county. The FCN supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times and we are grateful to them for what they do.

"We also know that dementia is a growing health problem – one in six people over the age of 80 have dementia, and there are 850,000 people with dementia in the UK.

"With an anticipated increase in the number of cases of 156 per cent between now and 2051, it equates to two million people, and the burden will fall on rural areas where there are significantly higher proportions of elderly people. So I would like to thank everyone who gave their time and helped in making this evening a success."

Anne Birkett

SOUTH WALES POLICE RATED 'GOOD' IN CRIME RECORDING INSPECTION

SOUTH Wales Police has made 'good progress' in the way it records reported crime, an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has found.

Progress was found in all areas since an inspection in 2014. The force has been praised for "making concerted efforts to improve crime recording accuracy" and being "committed to ethical crime recording that is victim-focused and free from performance pressures of any kind".

HMICFRS rated South Wales Police as follows:

Good at recording reported crime;

Good processes and systems for efficient crime recording;

Outstanding leadership and culture to meet national crime recording standards;

Good overall judgement.

Assistant Chief Constable Richard Lewis said: "Since 2014 we have fundamentally changed the way in which we record crime which has taken a huge amount effort and a change in culture which has been recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

"We are now recording crime that has never been captured before, developing a more accurate picture of crime levels in south Wales, placing the clearest possible focus on victims. This change in process is known as 'criming at source'.

"More than nine out of 10 crimes reported to us are now recorded and while there is more work to be done the fact that the culture and leadership within the force has been graded as outstanding gives me the confidence that we can get even better."

The inspection found that South Wales Police:

Records nearly all reports of crime reported directly to its public protection teams;

Achieves high levels of recording accuracy for reported sexual offences;

Records most reports of crime with 24 hours of the report, as required;

Makes good decisions when considering whether or not to cancel a recorded crime;

Has implemented all of the recommendations set out in the 2014 report;

Has made good progress against a national action plan developed to improve crime recording by police forces.

Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael said: "The victim has been very much our focus in recent years, and that has resulted in a welcome and significant jump in victim satisfaction in south Wales. That is encouraging because a lot of hard work has been done to ensure that the public know that our officers and staff are here to listen to victims and to respond to their needs.

"This is a very complex business which can never be perfect, but the increasing convergence between the reality of public experience and reports coming to the police speaks volumes for the progress made. It is clear that people are now more confident than ever to report crime so it is absolutely vital that reported crime is recorded properly.

"We know south Wales has increasingly become a safer place to live and work as crime has been cut dramatically over the last 20 years. We now record crimes as they are described by the member of public at the time they report it. This ensures an immediate focus on victims. It also means the number of incidents recorded are also closer to actual levels of crime, particularly in areas where we have campaigned to build confidence in reporting such as violence and sexual offences."

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Family firefighter funding from Freemasons

SOUTH Wales Fire and Rescue has been running 'Family Firefighter for a Day' programmes in conjunction with the Family Department since 2015.

The programme is available to prisoners and their children from the Family Unit and the Ex-Serviceman's Unit.

It helps the fathers and their children with team building and problem-solving skills, while also educating them around home safety and what to do in the event of a fire in the home.

This year, it has been supported by the Llanilltud Fawr Lodge 8644 from the Masonic Temple in Porthcawl.

This support will go a long way in providing Christmas presents for the children, who will be having a party later this month.

AS

HUNDREDS OF SANTAS INVADE BARRY ISLAND FOR TWO CHARITABLE CAUSES

THE Barry Town Council 'Santa Fun Run' on Barry Island proved a spectacular event with funds raised going to Ty Hafan and the British Heart Foundation.

A total of 500 red-and-white clad Santas of all ages, zig-zagged down the paths from the promenade to the beach. The finish line was on the beach just below Marco's Café.

Santa's elves were on hand with buckets to help with the charity collection.

Local radio station Bro Radio was on hand to make sure everything went with a swing.

Pictures courtesy of Bro Radio.

SUPPORT PLEA FOR 'TEAM EVSY'

THROUGH the fundraising efforts of a group of family and friends in Bridgend called 'Team Evsy', Velindre Cancer Centre will be able to help fund a PhD student to carry out specialist brain tumour imaging research in Wales.

Team Evsy began fundraising when Mike Evans was diagnosed with a brain tumour, and despite his battle, including completing a triathlon whilst receiving treatment, the policeman died earlier this year.

The fundraising efforts of the Team Evsy family and friends have continued with a 100-mile bike ride in October, and support and donations from many including triathlete Helen Jenkins, meaning that more than £66,000 has been raised.

Dr James Powell of Velindre Cancer Centre said: "Brain and spinal cord tumours are rare conditions that can be devastating for those affected and their families, and are different from other types of cancer since they affect the part of the body that makes us who we are.

"Velindre receives between 100-150 referrals for patients with brain and spinal cord tumours per year and survival often comes with physical and mental changes, caused not just by the tumour but also by its treatment. So, as well as improving the effectiveness of treatment and hopefully survival, a priority for brain tumour research for us in Wales is to reduce the side effects of treatment."

Louise Evans said: "When my husband was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour in March 2016, he accepted his fate graciously. Mike received outstanding care from Dr Powell and his team at Velindre. Lily, Sol and I are delighted that the money raised by Team Evsy can now make a difference.

"We will continue, with the support of family, friends and our community to raise as much as possible. This was 'Evsy's wish'."

Readers that would like to support Velindre's brain tumour research fund Headfirst should visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teamevs. **AS**

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Hundreds of Santas are on the run at Barry Island for two worthy causes

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478

BARRY Town Council would like to thank and congratulate all those who participated in the second Santa Fun Run at Barry Island on December 3.

The event was a huge success with close to 500 people descending on Barry Island dressed as Father Christmas to run the festive 2k route in aid of the Barry Town Mayor, Cllr Nic Hodges' chosen charities, Tŷ Hafan and British Heart Foundation.

The event was described as the "event of the community," with many people praising how fantastic it was to see so many people and community organisations coming together to host a fun morning for all the family to enjoy.

The event was organised by Barry Town Council with the amazing support of the following organisations, businesses and volunteers: Barry Town Mayor's Charity Brass Band, Marco's Café, Boofy's Chip Shop, Bro Radio, JPL Sounds, Hyper Value, Kevin Moore Photography, British Heart Foundation, Tŷ Hafan, Brawd Fitness, Barry Youth Action, Barry First Responders, Barry Round Table and Barry Scouts.

Barry Town Council would like to wish all those who participated in a #VeryBarryChristmas and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

If you would like to get involved next year or have a suggestion for an event that would benefit the people of Barry, contact robynwalsh@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk who will be able to discuss your suggestion further.

Oak Field head says Estyn report dispels 'negative perceptions'

THE staff, children and community of Oak Field Primary School are celebrating considerable success after a recent Estyn inspection.

The Estyn inspection was undertaken in September. Oak Field was one of the first schools to experience inspection under the new framework.

The report highlights that standards are 'good' with pupils making strong progress in literacy, numeracy and ICT across the school.

The report also recognises the 'high quality' of teaching and 'learning experiences' provided by both teaching staff and LSAs to ensure that pupils' 'acquisition' is the very best it can be.

The report shows the progress that Oak Field has made as a school in all areas since its last inspection in 2011.

Headteacher Ian Williams said: "I am absolutely delighted with this inspection report. The report very clearly shows the product of four years of exceptionally hard work by the whole team.

"It accurately identifies the high quality educational provision we provide to all pupils and the strong progress pupils make in their learning.

"More than this, the report fully recognises our outstanding NEWS provision (Nurture, Emotional Wellbeing, Skills); something that I am passionate about."

The report grades Oak Field as 'excellent' in care support and guidance and states: 'Arrangements for the emotional and social development of all pupils is excellent'.

Mr Williams said: "I strongly feel that this report sends a crystal-clear message to the whole community and beyond.

"Oak Field is an exceptionally good school. More importantly this report will dispel any remaining negative perceptions of past times."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas Shoebox Appeal drop-off

THE Barry office of the Cardiff and Vale Credit Union at 174 Holton Road will be a drop-off point for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal to support domestic violence refuges in south Wales.

We will accept donations from December 8–15 and our office opening hours are 9.30am–2.30pm Monday to Friday.

More details can be found at: www.facebook.com/events/558776617787914.

Valeways guided walks

ON Monday, December 11 at 11am, 'Blow Away The Cobwebs': meet at the entrance to Asda car park on Barry Waterfront.

On Wednesday, December 13, the Coffee Shop Strollers of Barry meet at 10.30am at the top of the Bridge Cafe car park in Barry.

The same day at 2.30pm, the Coffee Shop Strollers of Cowbridge will meet at the Physic Garden fountain in Cowbridge.

Missed bus

WITH reference to the last two weeks about the 90 bus service, it's missed. Shopping in Barry is very limited.

People need to be able to get to Marks' and Tesco, as you point out, not everybody has cars.

This bus service enables older people to shop, whereas to get to Cardiff would be too much to cope with.

S Phillips, Barry.

STUDIO EVENT AT CANONHILL

AN open studio event is taking place at Canonhill Artspace in Barry, on Sunday, December 17, from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Artist Glyn Pooley said: "Together with original paintings and prints, some featuring our local environment, there will be hand-made art books, bookmarks and postcards to view. This will be a rare opportunity to find an unique Christmas gift for your loved ones. There's free admission, plus a complimentary raffle ticket on entry, with a chance to win an artwork."

For further information, see www.glynpooley.co.uk

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The children were looking forward to a visit from Santa.

A joint Christmas celebration in Cadoxton

ON December 2, Cadoxton Youth Project and Communities First held their Christmas event at Victoria Communty Centre in Cadoxton, with support from Geoff Horton and the Air Cadets.

The Barry Town Mayor and Mayoress, Couns Nic and Shirley Hodges, attended, along with many from the community, including Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club, who received a cheque from Rita from Cadoxton Youth Project. Communities First also received a cheque.

There was also a raffle, a fancy dress competition for the children and a visit from Santa who gave each child a gift.

Cadoxton Youth Project and Communities First would like to thank Geoff Horton and the Cadets whose help was much appreciated.

'MURDER HE WROTE' AT BARRY YACHT CLUB

WE didn't need Angela Lansbury from the TV series 'Murder She Wrote' when we could get the real thing at Barry Yacht Club on November 30.

The club was delighted to host retired Detective Superintendent Colin Jones for the fourth of its winter talks.

Colin spoke about his experiences of solving local murders, the complexities of organising and containing a crime scene and the intricacies of attention to the smallest of details which could lead to apprehending the guilty party.

The club was packed and there was a distinct buzz in the air as he took to the floor.

It became clear that real life murders are quite different to the exaggerated character profiles and false premises that entertain us in our favourite crime dramas.

Indeed, the fact that these were actual cases made the talk even more chilling as we entered a world in which the lives of individuals were taken in such a brutal and, for us, incomprehensible manner.

The talk was to prove a salutary experience. Fascinating yes, intriguing, of course, but never losing sight of the fact that we were discussing the deaths of real people, and that contributed to an atmosphere of respect.

Colin provided a very engaging talk which covered as much about his career as the murder investigations themselves. He regaled us with anecdotes from his time as a young police constable to almost celebrity status when he was invited to participate in a documentary for NBC in the US.

Equally, he made several appearances with Jonathan Hill on the popular series 'Crime Secrets'.

However, one couldn't help but feel that these were something of a distraction to the role he was clearly born to do.

He was born a policeman and will always be a policeman and it was obvious by his passion that it was the day to day events of police work, whether at headquarters or at the crime scene itself, that gave him his greatest inspiration.

His career was to span one of the biggest leaps in police investigative practices that has ever been seen in this country.

Pace (Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984) changed things forever, whereby testimony recorded at interviews could now be used in court and that the old police notebook, although not redundant, played a secondary role to the accuracy of real-time recorded interviews.

This was accompanied by the development of DNA investigative practices which have revolutionised the way the police now structure their investigations.

Colin enlightened us on the process by which 'blooding' and 'buccal swabs' had resulted in many a high-profile case reaching a conclusion with the culprit firmly under arrest.

However, we were surprised to hear that widespread use of blood testing and buccal swabs that takes place at a murder scene as a means of eliminating suspects, with the hope of getting a match to the real killer, is proving much more difficult to gain acceptance in the United States.

There, citizens regularly quote the fourth amendment of the constitution which protects people's right to privacy and freedom from unreasonable intrusions by the government unless probable cause is presented.

This is a source of considerable frustration for US police departments in an area that most in this country have come to accept as a necessary means for the police to be able to discharge their duties.

There were discussions as to whether this kind of data was turning Britain into something of a police state but the antonym of this was that it should make Britain a "safer state".

This is of course an argument that has raged for decades and there are valid arguments for both sides.

However, if the information is handled correctly and the correct rigours and discipline are applied then hopefully common ground can be reached, whereby the result for society is that it can sleep more soundly at night.

This was a fascinating talk from a truly engaging retired police superintendent whose enthusiasm for his subject was there for all to see and witness.

Despite the advancement of the years there was still a twinkle in his eye of the young constable that started his career in Barry Docks back in 1969, and perhaps a yearning to be once again in the thick of it.

He is the epitome of Margaret J Wheatley's quote: "For us, someone who is willing to step forward and help is much more courageous than someone who is merely fulfilling the role."

Colin not only fulfilled his role but had the courage to step forward and help. Policing was at the forefront of Colin's career but this was always matched with the respect and duty he felt he owed to the people he was serving.

STEVEN LORD

Partner photographic club lends it thoughts to Vale enthusiasts

WITH a membership of just over 40 and an average weekly attendance of just under 30, the Vale Photographic Club is doing just fine.

Judges have spoken in glowing terms of the standard of images put before them and this was reflected in our club being chosen to represent Wales in this year's Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Inter-Club Championship, held in Blackburn at the end of October.

Some 70 clubs from around Britain entered and, for our first visit, we were pleased to be placed, respectably, about halfway up the table.

For the second year in a row we have exchanged prints and comments with a club from Islesburgh, Lerwick in Shetland. On this occasion we heard their views, which we found interesting and gave us more food for thought.

The visiting judge for our second competition, 'Urban Landscape' and 'Open', was Trevor James. He awarded first places for Best Print and Best Projected Digital Image in both categories. The print winners were Gwynne Jones for his print 'Where to Go' and' Ray Evans for 'The Time Lady'. The PDI winners were Nick Thornton for 'Walking with echoes' and Mike Davies for 'Rain Heading South to Borrowdale'.

On November 16 for the second year running we felt fortunate to have as a guest-speaker Damien Lovegrove. His prints and suggestions on how we might achieve similar results were inspirational.

After Damien's talk, the following week we viewed prints by some of our own members and a lively discussion ensued.

All of our events came be viewed on our website, vale-photographic-club.co.uk. Better still, come along one Friday evening to Ystradowen Village Hall and enjoy a warm welcome. For those not sure about their own cameras and capabilities, visit the hall on Sunday, January 14 between 1pm and 5pm. Bring your camera and talk with enthusiasts.

The members of our club wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tony Tarlton

Nick Thornton's 'Walking With Echoes'.

Rain Heading South to Borrowdale.

Dance yourself dizzy

Some of Motion Control Dance's dancers.

THIS month, 27 young dancers from Motion Control Dance excelled in various street dance championships, showing what hard work and determination can bring and how team camaraderie can bring success and great memories.

The three dance teams competed in different age and ability divisions at the UDO Welsh Championships and the BDO South West Championships – both competitions were qualifiers for British, European and World Street Dance Championships.

Our Local Motion Dance Company also wowed the dance competition at Encore this month with its contemporary showcase.

Motion Control Dance is now looking for new members to join our dance family and we are holding an Open Day on Saturday, January 6 from 10am – 2pm for the community to come along and see the services we offer.

We have a range of new sessions starting in the new year that will promote health and well being for all ages.

For your chance to dance, go along to the Motion Control Dance Studio on Saturday, January 6 between 10am and 2pm to check out our services and enrol for our new season or visit our website *www.motioncontroldance.com* to register to try out a class for free.

EM

Successful launch for the Penarth and District Men's Fellowship

THE Penarth and District Men's Fellowship meet fortnightly in Elfed Avenue United Church.

The first speaker of this session in September was Dorian Prince, a former European Commission Ambassador – first to South Korea and then to Canada – who gave a talk relating experiences of his work in the diplomatic service.

The speakers who followed attempted to maintain that standard and Kevin Price from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama exceeded all expectations with a talk about his challenging career as a trombonist and his role in attracting students to Cardiff.

Emma Woods concluded the series with a talk on the environment and the local incinerator.

The group looks forward to a series of meetings which commence on Thursday, January 11 at 10.30am about the RNLI.

Among the speakers to come will be Keith Towler the former Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Following the talks, there is coffee and biscuits and opportunities for good fellowship. There is a warm welcome in Elfed Avenue United Church.

Bonvilston raises money for Blood Bikes Wales

Every penny counts to keep this lifeline operating.

A CRAFT fair at Bonvilston Reading Room on December 2 raised more £470 for Blood Bikes Wales, an organisation run by volunteers and totally reliant on donations.

With 13 stalls selling a wide range of high quality gifts, it was a fitting start to the festive season.

The arrival of the Blood Bike provided a photo opportunity for all the helpers, seen here on the patio.

The organisers Rosemary Fisher and Lis Frearson were delighted with the support from stall holders and customers and would like to thank all those who worked hard providing refreshments throughout the day.

BS

Working together at school

ON November 30, the Albert Primary School governing body was very pleased to have representatives of the pupil school council join their meeting.

The school council is a group of children elected by their fellow pupils to represent their opinions and raise issues with the headteacher and governors of the school.

The pupils shared with the governors the work they have been doing in relation to children's rights and how they are ensuring that all the children in the school have a voice!

The children then asked the governors a number of questions about their role as a governing body, the different things they discuss at meetings, the decisions they make and also how they help to make the school a better place for everyone.

To help to continue to develop and foster links between the school council and governors, the chairperson of the school council formally invited the governing body to join them for a tour of their school.

SS

Drugs checks at local pubs

POLICE officers have asked pub-goers in Barry to have their hands swabbed before they enter premises to see if they have been handling drugs.

Police say the initiative, which is conducted in partnership with landlords, aims to keep those who use drugs out of licensed premises so they can be enjoyed by normal law-abiding people.

In an operation last month, four out of 35 people, tested positive for illegal substances such as cocaine, and were prohibited from entering the premises.

The test involves a person's hands being swabbed – the sample is then placed in a drug itemiser which indicates the presence of any illegal substance.

Licencing officer, Jason Young, said: "This operation was held with the full support of the landlord and it was very much appreciated by everybody who used the premises.

"We know that drug use comes hand in hand with other crime and anti-social behaviour and this enables licensed premises to make a stand against that. People simply don't want it on their doorstep."

Vale Tourism Association has Christmas wrapped up

THE Vale Tourism Association is holding a festive business-to-business event at the Penny Farthing in Cowbridge between 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday, December 12.

This is an opportunity for tourism-facing businesses in the Vale to get together to enjoy some festive cheer and network with fellow businesspeople.

The ticket price of £8 (members) or £12 (non-members) includes a glass of Prosecco on arrival, canapeś selection, festive gift-wrapping tips from Eclipse Wrapping and live music to add to the festivities.

Book your place by logging onto www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festive-evening-with-the-vta-tickets-39407610223.

FOODBANK FUN RUN

THE Barry Island Park Run has been going for more than 30 months, and is organised by volunteers for the benefit of everyone, and has been a success.

Mark Ellis, a Vale Council officer and Park Run runner came up with the idea to promote the foodbank scheme. He decided that he and a few colleagues from Barry Communities First and Newydd Housing Association would complete the Park Run while dressed as various fruits and vegetables.

In return Park Runners on December 2 donated over 54 kilos of items which have been distributed to Coastlands Family Church, a local foodbank centre.

Anne-Marie Taylor, the foodbank coordinator said: "We are really grateful for the ongoing support of Mark Ellis and the Community Investment team towards the Vale Foodbank". **FBS**

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

ADRAN 116 AC ATODLEN 12 DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980

HYSBYSIAD O FWRIAD I WNEUD CAIS I DDARGYFEIRIO'R BRIFFORDD

HYSBYSIR bod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg fel yr Awdurdod Priffyrdd ar gyfer Bro Morgannwg yn bwriadu gwneud cais i'r Llys Ynadon, sef Llys Ynadon Caerdydd, Fitzalan Place, Caerdydd, CF24 0RZ ar 11 Ionawr 2018 am 10.00am am Orchymyn o dan adran 116 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980, i awdurdodi dileu rhan o'r briffordd a a leolir ar Y Rhodfa, y Barri ym Mro Morgannwg, a ddangosir ac ymyl coch â llinellau duon ar y cynllun sydd wedi'i atodi yma, ar y sail bod y Cyngor yn ystyried bod y briffordd yn y lleoliad hwn yn ddiangen yn unol ag Adran 116 (1)(a) Deddf Priffyrdd 1980.

Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a Chynllun drafft am ddim yn swyddfeydd y Cyngor yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holltwn, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg, CF63 4RU rhwng 9.00am a 4.30pm dydd Llun i ddydd Gwener (ac eithrio gwyliau'r banc a gwyliau cyhoeddus) o 7 Rhagfyr 2017 hyd at 10 Ionawr 2018.

Gall unrhyw un y mae'r Hysbysiad hwn wedi'i roi iddo neu sy'n defnyddio'r briffordd a nodwyd neu sydd wedi'i dramgwyddo gan y Gorchymyn fynd i'r Llys Ynadon i gyflwyno gwrthwynebiad neu sylwadau ar y cais.

Gofynnir i unrhyw berson sy'n bwriadu ymddangos yng ngwrandawiad y cais yn y Llys Ynadon roi gwybod i James Docherty, Uwch Gyfreithiwr yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holltwn, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg, CF63 4RU erbyn 10 Ionawr 2018 gan ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod C04-1578.

Dyddiad: 7 Rhagfyr 2017

Debbie Marles
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol
Swyddfeydd Dinesig
Heol Holltwn
Y Barri
Bro Morgannwg
CF63 4RU

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

SECTION 116 AND SCHEDULE 12 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO DIVERT THE HIGHWAY

NOTICE is given that Vale of Glamorgan Council as Highway Authority for the Vale of Glamorgan intends to apply to the Magistrates Court sitting at Cardiff Magistrates Court, Fitzalan Place, Cardiff, CF24 0RZ on 11 January 2018 at 10.00am for an Order under section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 authorising the extinguishment of part of the highway located at Y Rhodfa, Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan shown edged red and hatched black on the plan attached hereto on the ground that the Council considers that the highway at this location is unnecessary in accordance with Section 116 (1)(a) of the Highways Act 1980.

A copy of the draft Order and Plan may be inspected free of charge at the Council Offices at Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RU between the hours of 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Fridays (excluding bank holidays and public holidays) from 7 December 2017 to 10 January 2018.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application.

Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform James Docherty, Senior Lawyer at Vale of Glamorgan Council, Legal Services, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RU before the 10 January 2018 quoting reference C04-1578.

Dated: 7 December 2017

Debbie Marles
Head of Legal Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal Services
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4RU

Boxing Day comes early for South Wales Police

Some of the competitors who provided great entertainment on the night.

BOXING police officers helped to raise a knockout £15,000 for charity through a fundraising evening on Saturday night, November 18.

Fourteen police officers laced-up their gloves to endure three rounds of Queensberry rules, as hundreds of colleagues, including Deputy Chief Constable Matt Jukes, watched at ringside at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel.

It was also a milestone 10-year anniversary for the annual event which is organised by keen boxer Pc Gareth Owens who works in Barry police station.

He said: "It was an exceptional night and the first thing I want to do is praise all those who stepped into the ring for charity on Saturday. It's not an easy thing to do and the commitment each and every one of them showed was incredible.

"I'd also like to thank all those who bought tickets – their interest and support spurred on the competitors and of course helped us raise this amazing amount for great causes."

The money was raised through ticket sales, sponsorship, and a raffle on the night.

A range of charities are set to benefit, including the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal, Air Ambulance and Cancer Research Wales, along with Llantwit Major Amateur Boxing Club.

For the first time, a 'Spartan Warrior' trophy, in memory of Mike Evans (Evsy) who passed away this year, was presented to the fighter who demonstrated 'warrior-like' attributes – it went to Gareth Spargo.

The Dane Elson trophy – which for the past nine years has been awarded to the best boxer – was presented for the last time, to Stuart Elson, Dane's dad.

Dane Elson died while serving with the Welsh Guards in Afghanistan. On the 10th anniversary of the event, it was fitting for the trophy to be presented to Stuart 'for keeps' for his efforts and performances in the last 10 years.

£15,000 was raised for good causes including the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal, Air Ambulance and Cancer Research Wales, along with Llantwit Major Amateur Boxing Club.

PACT MEETINGS

COME along to meet PCSO Sarah Johnson at Barry Library on Thursday, December 14 between 10am and 12 noon.

Sarah will be on hand to offer some valuable crime prevention advice including rogue trader advice.

PCSO Rhiannon Cummings will hold a police surgery at Llantwit Major Library on Thursday, December 14 between 11.30am and 12.30pm.

There will be a coffee and chat session held by PCSO Angela Stone at St Mary Hill Golf Club on Tuesday, December 19 at 11am.

Valeways take a walk around Colwinston

ON a sunny but frosty morning, 10 walkers including three from Aberdare, joined Valeways walk leader John at the Sycamore Tree Inn in Colwinston.

Having been told that the pub was hosting a wedding reception in the afternoon, the walkers set off promptly down the hill passing St Michael's Church, said to have been built in 1111, to reach Ty Maen Farm.

From here they crossed fields covered in white before turning left up the road towards Ewenny. As that was much too far to walk shortly after joining the road they turned off over fields full of sheep towards the old village of Llampha beside Llampha Court.

Turning south after passing yet more sheep they crossed the Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line. This line was opened in 1897, never really a success it closed to passengers in 1964 before reopening to much acclaim in 2005.

Having safely crossed the line it was time for coffee before stepping out over the fields, following a point-to-point course above Church Farm before dropping down to the pretty village of Llandow full of 18th century or earlier buildings.

Some of the group stopped to visit the 11th century Holy Trinity Church while others waited, glad of a second coffee stop.

The group set off on the last leg of the walk crossing large fields full of more sheep (there should be plenty of lambs next year!).

They paused to admire the flying skills of a peregrine falcon before finally arriving back in the 'Thankful Village' of Colwinston and the warmth and friendliness of the Sycamore Tree Inn, where food and drink were taken and the car park vacated before the wedding guests arrived.

Congratulations to the happy couple and many thanks to the owners of the pub for the use of the car park and for the usual hospitality.

John Treby

Recording data on the Causeway at Worms Head.

SCHOOL OF ROCK

LAST month, the year-12 geography and year-13 geology groups of Barry Comprehensive School visited the Gower to collect data for their coursework research.

The year-12 (AS) geography pupils spent the first day collecting data about the glacial sediments, deposited during the most recent glacial age, at Rhossili and Three Cliffs Bay. On the second day the group investigated rural-urban change in the north of the Gower.

The year-13 (A2) geology students travelled to a variety of locations in the south of the Gower. This allowed them to investigate how the rocks and structures found there have been affected by major tectonic events in the past.

Both visits were very successful as the pupils. were able to collect a range of observations and data, which will allow them to complete their coursework investigations.

Silver care award for former investment manager

A FORMER investment manager who switched careers to work in care is celebrating the fruits of her labour after taking silver at a national awards ceremony.

Cerianne Gratton from Barry came second at this year's Wales Care Awards, held at City Hall in Cardiff.

The mother-of-three had been shortlisted for the Promoting Fulfilled Lives Award, sponsored by Boots Healthcare, following her rapid rise to success as registered manager at domiciliary care provider All Care (S Wales) Ltd.

The national awards, run by Care Forum Wales acknowledge the hard work and exceptional performances of those in the care sector.

Cerianne accepted her silver award at a ceremony hosted by tenor and radio presenter Wynne Evans, best known as 'Gio Compario' from the Go Compare TV adverts.

"I was really surprised about the nomination as I had no idea," she admitted.

"Keri, my boss, took a huge chance on me coming into the sector when there are so many changes taking place and into a role which entails huge responsibility. I'm honoured and very grateful for the chance she gave me, even though sometimes this job is the hardest thing I've ever done in my life!

Cerianne received her award at City Hall in Cardiff.

"It's also lovely that so many people wrote testimonies to back up my nomination."

Cerianne says one of the most rewarding aspects of her job now is helping staff develop and recognise their full potential.

"We've had care staff who don't realise their own worth or potential and others who lack in confidence and when they've come to us they've flourished," she said.

Nominating Cerianne for the award, Keri Llewellyn, company director, said: "Cerianne has totally embraced the mission and culture of All Care where we are committed to being the best we can and thinking outside the box to improve people's lives."

She added: "Cerianne has become my right arm and a person I can be confident in to manage and guide the company. We are stronger and have developed so much as a company during her time in a management position."

High Street School supports Children In Need

EVERY year, the school council at High Street Primary School organises new ways to raise money for Children In Need (CIN), said a school spokesperson.

Each year, it also tries to raise more than it did the year before. After raising £1,100 for CIN in 2016 and being awarded a special 'Loyal Supporters' badge from Matt Baker, the school council had a big task ahead of them this year.

The children organised a Pudsey Picnic for the Foundation Phase classes. Children brought their teddies to school and paid £2 each to join in with the picnic and party games.

Key Stage 2 classes each organised a sponsored event.

From a sponsored dance in year 3 to a sponsored silence in year 5. Each child raised money at home and the biggest fundraisers were awarded a certificate and prize.

The school council also arranged a 'dress-in-spots day' on November 17.

Children were asked to donate £1 to enter the spotty costume competition. They also had a cake sale and visited classes for face painting.

Pudsey the Bear with his friends from Barry Round Table also visited to hand out prizes and judge our costume competition.

In a small school of just 225 pupils we managed to raise an £2,403.16.!

Miss Davies, who helps school council organise the day, was amazed at the total and is incredibly proud of all the pupils, staff and families for their generous support of such a fantastic charity. **SS**

BARNARDOS AND BUILD-A-BEAR TEAM UP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

CHILDREN who have suffered a bereavement recently were invited to a special evening at Cardiff's Build-A-Bear Workshop where they could choose and dress a bear to take home.

The visit was organised thanks to a partnership between the Build-A-Bear Workshop in St David's shopping centre and Barnardo's Cymru, which runs the Cardiff and Vale Child and Family Bereavement Service.

The service supports families who have experienced a significant bereavement, trauma or loss. It uses therapeutic strategies such as one to one work, play therapy and creative group work to explore thoughts and feelings and help families manage their loss.

Jackie Vining, assistant director of Barnardo's Cymru for Cardiff and the Vale, said: "All the children who participated had a wonderful time. As well as being great fun and hugely enjoyable, being able to utilise their creative skills in making and dressing their bears provided the children with a very practical way to express themselves and their feelings.

"The event had therapeutic benefits as well as being an outlet for the children's talent and energy.

"The variety of bears and outfits produced was individual and wonderful."

The company is donating a total of 6,000 bears to Barnardo's services across the UK this Christmas.

From December 1-3, a 'Stuffed with Hugs' event took place where customers can make a bear at no charge to be donated to a child being supported by Barnardo's.

Roger Parry, senior managing director for the company in Europe, said: "We are honoured to partner with Barnardo's and join them in supporting thousands of children across the UK. We hope to bring some extra Christmas cheer to the children this year, and make their days a little bit brighter."

From now until December 10 customers will also be able to donate any new, unwrapped toys in-store which will be given to Barnardo's Cymru for distribution to children it supports and can make donations at till points from now until December 26.

Barnardo's chief executive, Javed Khan said: "Christmas can often be a difficult time for the vulnerable children, young people, carers and parents we support each year.

"So it is wonderful that the company has given them the opportunity to create some special Christmas memories. We are also really grateful that they will be helping to raise money towards our services." **SB**

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Books, not cards, for Christmas

WELSH rugby legend Jonathan Davies has launched the annual Velindre Fundraising Christmas Appeal for 2018.

The appeal for this year focuses on supporting families dealing with cancer at Christmas time.

Velindre Cancer Centre developed a series of books to help support parents and grandparents with a cancer diagnosis, in talking to their children about cancer and its treatments. The books were written by specialist nurse Michele Pengelly who said: "Although there are some excellent resources to help parents talk to their children about cancer, I felt it would be helpful to try to develop storybooks to cater for the needs of all the families we were meeting.

Jonathan, who recently celebrated 10 years of support for the centre, where he is president, said: "I know that trying to explain cancer to children can be very stressful for everyone, and the *Caring For My Family With Cancer* books and the Lions are a huge help.

"With the support of Velindre Specialist Nurses, your donation can make a huge difference to a family dealing with cancer this Christmas, and you can leave a message showing your support – and it's a great change from posting Christmas cards."

If at this special time of year you would like to support Velindre's Caring for Families with Cancer at Christmas Appeal, visit: www.velindrefundraising.com.

STUDIO EVENT AT CANONHILL

AN open studio event is taking place at Canonhill Artspace in Barry on Sunday, December 17, from 12 noon to 4pm.

Artist Glyn Pooley said: "Together with original paintings and prints, some featuring our local environment, there will be hand-made art books, bookmarks and postcards to view. This will be a rare opportunity to find an unique Christmas gift for your loved ones. There's free admission, plus a complimentary raffle ticket on entry, with a chance to win an artwork."

For further information, see www.glynpooley.co.uk.

Penarth builds a bonfire for a king!

A LOCAL historian, Brian Keitch of Penarth, recently discovered a number of fascinating old photographs of the area – taken by a relative more than 100 years ago!

Brian explained: "Over 100 years ago, my great grandfather, John Lewis, lived in the Penarth area and was a very keen photographer.

"A collection of the glass plates he took circa 1905 to 1910 have come down to us and provide a glimpse of what interested him all that time ago.

"The subject matter covers a number of locations in the Vale, in particular Barry, Penarth, Wenvoe and Llantwit Major.

This photo, dated July 13, 1907, records the time Penarth built a bonfire fit for a king!

King Edward VII arrived on the Royal yacht *Osborne* on the occasion of a state visit to Cardiff to open the newly completed Queen Alexandra Dock – the last of the great docks of that port.

It was common on special occasions for the folk of Penarth to build a bonfire – or beacon – on top of Penarth Head near St Augustine's Church. Some say the tradition goes back to Roman times; they must have a very good memory!

For those who would like to see the event, which was filmed on the day, Pathe News archives have a copy. Needless to say, the royal yacht was escorted in the time-honoured way by a fleet of local excursion steamers up and down the Bristol Channel.

New game awards launched... Who will you nominate?

A NEW award scheme to celebrate Britain's superlative range of game, and those that supply and produce it, has been launched, and nominations are open.

The Eat Game Awards is a new initiative created by three leading British Businesses: James Purdey & Sons Ltd, Boisdale Restaurants and Taste of Game.

The Awards will embark on a national search to find the champions of British game and to reward their success, innovation and passion in working with this natural countryside harvest.

Supported by many of the biggest names in the industry and in turn supporting the Country Food Trust Charity, this initiative will not only provide worthwhile recognition for exceptional businesses and individuals but will also raise awareness for the benefits of eating game and the purity of the field-to-fork ethos.

There are 10 categories in the awards, including: Best Game Farmers' Market Stall (including street food); Best Restaurant regularly Serving Game; Best Pub Regularly Serving Game; Best Game Butcher; and Champion of Champions.

There is also a category for Best small Retailer Selling Game and, recognising that some supermarkets also stock and sell British game, the Best Multiple Retailer selling Game.

Bridgend, the Vale and nearby, have a host of butchers licensed to deal game, a number of estates supplying venison and game birds, and a range of restaurants and pubs serving rabbit, pheasant, venison, partridge, woodpigeon and more.

The Eat Game Awards are supported by a steering group made up of experts from a cross section of the hospitality, retail, game meat and shooting worlds, including William Sitwell, Chris Blundell, Claire Zambuni, and Tristan Kirk and Simon Wilkins of Lincolnshire Game. J B Gill, formerly of the pop group JLS and now a television presenter and farmer, is an ambassador of the Awards.

The Eat Game Awards is supporting the Country Food Trust.

The Country Food Trust produces and supplies game meat casseroles, packaged in ready-to-eat long-life pouches and distributes them to various organisations for people in need round the UK. Recipient organisations include the Salvation Army, Veterans' Aid and FareShare.

Its aim is to feed 1 million people in the first five years. This year, it is on target to feed some 125,000 people.

Nominations close on Febrauary 28, 2018. For more information on the full range of categories, and how to nominate your favourites in the Vale and Bridgend, visit www.eatgameawards.co.uk.

Highlight Park WI news

JOSEPH Angus Alexander, son-in-law of Henry Burton, was a Methodist missionary from Charnwood West Kirby, Northumberland.

His granddaughter, Jacqui James, came to Highlight Park WI to give us a very interesting insight into the romantic experiences between her grandparents.

Nellie Burton's family had given Joseph a few meals at their home while he was studying but there had been no romance then.

He was sent to China in 1906 and while he was there, Joseph received a letter from Nellie and soon 16-page letters were sent to and fro with Joseph declaring that he was in love with her.

Jacqui had a file of love letters with photographs to show us of their family while living in China and in the UK. Joseph and Nellie were married and set sail on the P&O ship *Nubia* to make their home in China. This was a very interesting insight to love and marriage in the 19th century.

At our social meeting on November 18, we were paid a visit by our local Asda representative.

Lynette announced that Asda had been in Barry for three years since April. She explained the origin of the little green tokens named 'Chosen By You' where customers can choose which charity they want to support by placing them in the device in the foyer. She said we had been chosen to receive a £200 donation to our WI.

She explained that charities and organisations are selected from lots of local applications and she thought our organisation was extremely important in helping the community with friendship and opportunities to meet other people under our WI tradition.

Other charities also received donations and she encouraged us to keep applying next year. We all had tea with her and she was welcomed by us all.

On November 21, we held our usual meeting at the hall with WI visitors from Dinas Powys, Rhoose, Wenvoe and Penarth peers.

Tables were laid out in readiness for an evening of shopping, Name The Teddy (Popcorn), cards, books, jewellery, knitted garments and Christmas goodies.

As tradition allows, we had a huge raffle of 15 lovely prizes beautifully wrapped to be won. After the minutes had been read out and our president ran through the business, tea and biscuits and lovely cakes were served during the evening.

Around about 70-80 ladies and one man enjoyed a time to catch up with friends before the Christmas rush. Thanks to our visitors for joining in on our social night.

Future events: Monday, December 11 at 2pm Link Carol Service at St David's Methodist Church, Winston Road, Barry. December 5, WI social event, 2pm. December 19, Christmas party with Steve David, entertainer.

Merry Christmas to all our members past and present. We look forward to seeing you again in 2018. **DB**

LAURIE OWEN
Notes of Christmas past from Barry Dock News

Christmas Past: Excerpts from the Barry Dock News of 1889, its first Christmas edition.

Remember the Poor at Christmas

Remember the poor when the snow comes down
And covers the earth with a Christmas crown,
Ye watchers and workers about the town.

Remember the poor when the board is spread,
When there's plenty of meat and plenty of bread –
By Him was the needy multitude fed.

Remember the poor with some garment warm,
That may shelter his breast in the coming storm,
Or may wrap some little wanderer's form.

Remember the poor at your very door,
When your bin is full and your cups run o'er,
When the Lord has given you stock and store.

Remember the poor in the great highway,
The pitiful waifs that a-hungered stray,
For the sake of the Christ-child born today.

The Christmas fashion for 1889.

GENERAL LEE of the Local Board was pleased that inmates of the Cardiff Workhouse were to be given a Christmas dinner of roast beef and plum pudding with either tea or coffee.

However, he strongly urged that just once on this special occasion, they could have a glass of beer instead of the usual beverage.

The various church groups laid on Christmas dinners for the hundreds of poor every year.

It should be remembered that this was just months after the Docks had been opened and nothing by way of infrastructure had been established. The streets and roads were unmade and muddy, the houses were built in a haphazard way so when a young family moved into their new home, all around were builders and their equipment. With no water or sewerage, heating or lighting and very little money, it was hardly surprising that many housewives were not enthused at the thought of Christmas.

'The Ladies Christmas Column' was saddened to see some uninterest in the coming festivities and their article sought to encourage the women, if only for the sake of the children.

Decorations could be as little as dabs of 'green' on walls and picture frames or foliage arranged with 'taste and care'; 'ropes of foliage crossed and tied at intervals with narrow ribbon and stars of large laurel leaves, fastened bunchily together with rosy, polished apples'. For some there could be 'mistletoe, flowers and fruit with possibly, some fairy lights dotted about'.

The well-off may have turkey and goose with hallowed plum pudding, but those less fortunate could enjoy hares, pigeons or rabbit-pie.

Children of poorer families would have been pleased with an apple, an orange and some nuts, a tradition which still existed in the 1940s in our stocking. Thankfully by then we also had some sweets and one 'big present'.

Plum puddings cropped up in several articles and I was intrigued by the presence of this fruit in December, but thankfully, a later recipe described the ingredients: flour, baking powder, breadcrumbs, suet, raisins, currants, sugar, almonds, mixed candied peel, salt and spice to taste; mix well and add eggs, milk and then boil. No mention of actual plums, but most likely out of reach to many housewives.

For working families and those slightly better off, a sketch showed a young lady with a 'hood for party going, in pale strawberry silk with white ribbon bows and small pom poms which were in fashion'.

Female readers of this story may notice the 'shoulder pad wings' which are so fashionable in 2017.

Under the heading 'seasoning' were the following three mottos:

Better pay the butcher than the doctor; better go to bed without your Christmas dinner than rise in debt; Christmas mirth is worth a year's sorrow.

Then again under 'Proverbs Revised':

Today thee, tomorrow me – as the doctor said to the glutton; with stomach, wife and conscience, keep on good terms this Christmastide; you can't make a joint of a pig's tail nor a Christmas feast of a red herring; hunger is the finest sauce for the plum pudding.

'Amusement for Winter Evenings' explained with great detail and supporting sketches how to entertain the children:

1. 'Passing a penny into a bottle' – this needed great preparation and involved cutting a penny into three with a chisel, then with the aid of an 'indiarubber band', onlookers would be astonished with the result. An already prepared penny could be bought from a toy shop for 6d.

2. 'The Broken Pipe' – a trick with two (smoking) pipes.

3. 'Houdin's Magic Ball' (he was a French magician who would later lend his name to 'Harry Houdini'). A cord fixed around a ball appeared to pass through it.

4. 'Swallowing the flame of a candle' needed an element of courage.

5. Standing a coin on edge on a slip of paper then sharply removing the paper, to leave the coin still standing upright.

6. 'The Fork Balance' – with two forks and a penny piece, they could balance on the edge of a glass.

Three years later under the heading 'Christmas Crackers' – just a very brief sample to lift the spirits:

How long did Cain hate his brother? As long as he was Abel.

Why is death like the letter E? It is the end of life.

Why are good husbands like dough? Women need them.

What is bought by the yard and worn by the foot? A carpet.

Why do girls like the east wind? It brings chaps to their lips.

Back to 1889, Cadoxton Brass Band would play seasonal music in different parts of town. Although there had been a 'Cadoxton-Barry' contingent of the Salvation Army for several months, no mention was made of a brass band or indeed any good deeds at Christmas.

Board schoolchildren at Cadoxton gave their Christmas concert to a packed audience. A Christmas tree was only mentioned at Penarth and Llantwit Major Board School.

For entertainment, the New Princess Theatre, Cadoxton held its first pantomime: *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* with boxes costing 1s, the pit 6d and 3d in the gallery. These prices may well have been out of reach to poorer families with their many children, who would have loved the chance to see such a spectacle.

To sum up, although there was little to enjoy for many of these new families, the Barry Dock News recorded some of the good things on offer in 1889.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillors' surgery

RHOOSE councillors Gordon Kemp and Matt Lloyd will hold a surgery on Saturday, December 9 between 10am and 11am at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose. No appointment necessary.

Care and Repair in the Vale

IF you are an elderly homeowner or private tenant living in the Vale, do you need advice or support on repairs or home improvements?

Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale help older homeowners and private tenants adapt and maintain their homes, give advice on grants available and advise on reputable companies to use, and will be at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, December 12 from 10am to 12pm. No appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A monthly meeting will be musical entertainment by Porthcawl Ukulele Band at 2pm on Wednesday, December 13 in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge (please note the change of venue).

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes festive refreshments. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

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Robeson remembered by Youth Theatre

THE Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) has finished a short tour of its production, *Robeson Remembered*. that paid a warm tribute to the links between Paul Robeson and Wales.

The show was performed in Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion, Treorchy's Parc and Dare Theatre, and at Maesteg Town Hall. There are also plans for the production, which was very warmly received, to be performed in Cardiff, in the Wales Millennium Centre.

Local historian Keith E Morgan was an interested observer ofthe show, and has also written about the historical events portrayed in *Robeson Remembered*. HOW proud Paul Robeson would have been of the Bridgend Youth Theatre if he were alive today.

Porthcawl Male Voice Choir on stage at the Grand Pavilion.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS by Mei Lewis, Mission Photographic.

ABOVE: BYT members on stage in Porthcawl.

Managed by It's My Shout Productions, the young cast of *Robeson Remembered* at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, gave a remarkable performance and in doing so, paid an over-whelming tribute in a modern context to Paul Robeson, a great actor, singer and civil rights leader, an outstanding figure of our time, but one who is largely forgotten today.

The performance not only commemorated the 60th anniversary of the live Transatlantic telephone cable concert between Paul Robeson in New York and the South Wales Miners' Eisteddfod at the Grand Pavilion, but the contribution that Robeson made to both the south Wales miners and the people in Wales, as well as throughout the World in general.

The performance was 1½ hours long with sign language provided throughout by Sami Thorpe. The young actors set the scene by entering from the auditorium to take their positions on a mist-shrouded stage with the props limited to a number of packing cases.

The backcloth then changed to the showing of a film by Mei Lewis which depicted Paul Robeson (played by former wales international footballer, Nathan Blake) arriving on foot with suitcase in Porthcawl. Even though Robeson visited Wales many times, he only ever visited Porthcawl in spirit.

After the film, the actors moved on to highlight many of Robeson's activities in Wales, such the part he played in the film *The Proud Valley* and that event which was being celebrated by the performance, the 60th anniversary of the live Transatlantic link given by Paul Robeson at the 1957 Miners' Eisteddfod.

Singers Phoebe Lewis and Lily Mohammad contributed to this scene with the singing respectively of 'Ar lan y mor' and *Gershwin*'s 'Summertime' from *Porgy and Bess*.

Next it was the turn of the Porthcawl Male Voice Choir under the baton of Mair Jones who gave a fine rendering of a Welsh hymn, followed by a song made famous by Robeson, 'O' Man River'.

The young actors then returned to the stage to bring the performance to its conclusion with a massive response from the audience.

Paul Leroy Robeson, was a famous American singer, actor and civil rights activist. He was born in Princeton, New Jersey, USA on April 9, 1898. His father had been a slave on a cotton plantation until he escaped to the North where he became a Presbyterian minister.

Paul lost his mother before he was six years old, nevertheless, his childhood was a happy one and family encouragement helped him later on in life to make his mark in high school, college and university.

He distinguished himself at Rutgers University as a star football player and passed out with a law degree. The law did not match Paul's ambitions for black equality so he turned to the stage.

It was while he was in London, in the record-breaking production of *Showboat,* that his long association and links with south Wales and the miners were first forged in 1928. Listening to a group of Rhondda miners who had marched to London to voice their plight, Robeson identified a link between the miners' harsh conditions and those of his fellow black Americans back home.

From about this point on, Paul became a civil rights activist for which he was harshly persecuted back home in his own country. For the above and other reasons, Paul earned himself a place in the history of the Welsh mining communities as an 'honorary Welshman'.

Paul Robeson had been invited to attend the 1957 Miners' Eisteddfod, but because his passport had been revoked, he was unable to leave the USA.

However, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), south Wales area, opted for a live link up over the recently completed Transatlantic telephone cable.

The setting up of the Transatlantic link was a remarkable achievement in itself. The first ever Transatlantic submarine telephone cable had only been laid and brought into service the previous year in 1956.

This cable had been designed for speech communication with a standard telephone speech frequency bandwidth of about 3,000 hertz and not for the transmission of music. All frequencies in the human voice below 400 hertz and above 3,400 hertz are eliminated by this built-in restriction.

In this sense, the quality of Paul Robeson's broadcast was truly remarkable, which was reflected in the exceptional quality of the gramophone records (of which a number of people have approached me saying that they have copies), that were made at the time and of the re-mastered audio tapes that were marketed in 1998 and the limited edition CDs which were subsequently produced in 2007.

Arranged by the National Union of Mineworkers, south Wales area, quite a lot off effort went into setting up the telephone link between New York and the Grand Pavilion. The timing had to be booked so that circuits could be allocated between the main telephone exchanges at either end of the network.

From the Porthcawl telephone exchange, a manual operated switchboard, which was located in what are now the present Town Council offices in Victoria Avenue, a special circuit (a private wire) had to allocated to the Grand Pavilion where all the appropriate terminal and amplifier equipment had to be installed so that it could be broadcast to the over-capacity audience that packed the venue to the gunwhales; standing room only being the standard of the day both inside the venue and outside on the pavements.

Brian Batters, who was a GPO telecommunications apprentice at the time, recalls the excitement in the telephone exchange in setting up the circuit for Paul Robeson's call. This was carried out at the exchange by technical officer-in-charge Neville Dan Jones and Joan Jones, the deputy switchboard supervisor, while the loudspeakers and amplifiers at the Grand Pavilion were the responsibility of local electrical and television engineer Deg Smith.

Thanks to all this effort, the concert was a great success with credit for payment of the link-up being attributed to the National Union of Mineworkers, south Wales area, and actor Harry Belafonte.

Glamorgan has long historical associations with telecommunications. Did you know that the first ever submarine telegraph cable was laid in Swansea Bay in August 1844 when Charles Wheatstone and John Dillwyn Llewelyn of Swansea transmitted electrical signals via this cable from an off-shore boat to the Mumbles lighthouse?

This exercise paved the way for the make up and laying of all subsequent submarine cables throughout the world. To put the magnitude of this event into a historical context, Wheatstone also demonstrated the operation of an electrical bell between the lodge and Llewelyn's house in Sketty!

Such a simple operation today, but how we have moved on. Did you also know that the first ever successful radio link across water between two countries was made by Guglielmo Marconi from Lavernock Point in Wales across the Bristol Channel to Brean Down in England in 1897?

We all know what this went on to achieve with wireless, internet and wifi being taken for granted as a an everyday part of our lives today.

Further to my recent appeal in The GEM for information on the now famous live link-up, I have received a number of stories relating to Paul Robeson, one of which relates to Tom James, the gentleman shown sitting next to Tyrone O'Sullivan OBE in one of the photographs.

Tyrone is another hero of the miners having fought heart and soul to try and save Tower Colliery at Hirwaun, the last deep working pit in Wales.

Tom's tale is that at the age of 10, he was taken with his brother by Trevor Hicks, their surrogate father, to see the filming of *Proud Valley* in the next village, that of Llantrisant.

During the scene where Paul Robeson and others are walking behind the band on their way to London, the lady in charge of the props realised that Paul Robeson was the only one not wearing the fashionable cloth (Dai) cap of the period and with Trevor being close at hand, he is asked if Paul can borrow his cap for the scene which he gladly hands over.

On completion of the shooting, Trevor sought to recover his cap, only to be persuaded for a small compensation, to let Paul Robeson keep the cap for the remainder of the film. Can you cap that?

There is no record of Paul Robeson ever visiting Porthcawl, but his son Paul Robeson Jnr did on at least two occasions. The first was in June 1998, when he officially opened the Paul Robeson Room in the Grand Pavilion and the second was for the Sir Willard White Concert on October 4, 2007 celebrating the 50 anniversary of the Transatlantic telephone cable link-up.

KEITH E MORGAN

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Observations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objectors/supporters may be identified on the Internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an intent to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 643675.

Yr wyf yn hysbysu bod y ceisiadau canlynol wedi cael eu gwneud. Gellir bwrw golwg ar ddogfennau'r ceisiadau yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB neu ar y dudalen gynllunio ar weban y Cyngor. Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ar y ceisiadau hyn ar sail cynllunio'r defnydd o dir ysgrifennu at y Cyngor at y cyfeiriad uchod erbyn y dyddiad a nodir dan bob categori ceisiadau neu gyflwyno'i sylwadau ar-lein. Ni anfonir cydnabyddiaeth yn dilyn derbyn sylwadau ar geisiadau. Bydd unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu harchwilio ac mae'n bosib fydd enwau gwrthwynebwyr/cefnogwr ar gael ar y Rhyngrwyd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Rheoli Datblygu'n gweithredu trefniadau i siaradau o'r cyhoedd gael siarad. Os ydych yn dymuno sodi bwriad i siarad yn y Pwyllgor (os na fydd y cais yn cael ei broseso dan bwerau wedi'u dirprwyo), nodwch hynny yn eich ymateb. I gael mwy o wybodaeth ffonwch 01656 643675.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012

P/17/952/FUL Replacement of storage building with a new two storey house - Land north of Meadow Cottage 5 Smallholdings Colty by Mr M Greenwood

P/17/969/FUL Inclusion of agricultural land within curtilage of dwelling - Land rear of 63 High Street Laleston by B Frost & S Rogers

P/17/1000/FUL Inclusion of agricultural land within curtilage of dwelling - Land rear of 55 High Street Laleston by Mr T & Mrs C Green

The above proposed developments do not accord with the provision of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

P/17/755/FUL Proposed canopy structure - TDW Distribution Moor Road Waterton Industrial Estate by TDW Distribution Ltd

RESPOND BY: 20/12/2017

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities / Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol-Cymunedau 7-12-2017

JSTKD enjoy success at championships!

THERE was a brilliant effort from all members of Team JSTKD at the recent Welsh Area Championships.

Everyone was on top form with the club coming away with three new champions and a grand total of four golds, three silvers and four bronzes across the individual and tag events.

The team comprised Rhys and Seren Doel, Menna and Harri Burmingham, Zac, Joe and Lucy Grinter, Xantia, Zander and Maximus Hoborough, Emily and Jessica Doogue, Daniel and Bradley Thomas, Alex Munn, Alisha Roberts, Sean Edwards, Darcy Griffin, Grace Waters, Jack Burnett and Viv Wilfred.

Those taking part in the Patterns events were up first. Menna, Harri, Emily (Black Belts), Jessica, Xantia, Alisha and Viv (colour belts) all gave great performances but were just edged out of the medal positions this time around.

Once the sparring got underway however, the first medal of the day went to Zander as he fought well to claim a bronze in the boys lightweight Green Belts.

Twin brother Maximus also gave it everything in the boys peewee Green Belts with another brother double act, Daniel and Bradley doing well in their respective debut rounds in the Boys Blue and Green Belts.

First-timers Grace and Lucy were also underway in the girls lightweight Red Belts and Peewee Yellow Belts respectively, with Lucy being particularly unlucky not to progress further, having only lost her bout on a 'sudden death' point.

Although not coming away with medals, Jessica, Seren and Jack were battling it out in the Girls Blue and Mens Red Belt divisions.

However, there was some major success in the colour belt sparring with three new area champions in the shape of Alisha (Girls Blue Middleweight), Zac (Boys Blue Peewee) and Joe (Boys Green Tiny Tots).

Alisha was on first and using some superior kicks, swept through her opponents who watched her march off with the gold.

Zac was on peerless form and included a spectacular flying kick on his way to the top spot.

Younger brother Joe, was also taking no prisoners as he completed the hat-trick by grabbing the gold in his event too.

Hot on their heels was Alex, who fought exceptionally well in the Boys Blue Lightweight event. He had everyone holding their breath in the final moments of a fierce final match as he scored a potentially winning point right on the last seconds of the bell.

Unfortunately, it wasn't counted and so he found himself having to settle for the silver instead.

The team's Black Belts were also in action with Emily and Sean fighting well in their respective matches.

Darcy's first time fighting as a Black Belt proving to be a real 'slug it out' affair, although she reluctantly had to bow out after just faltering on a 'sudden death' final point.

The medal tally got a boost though from Menna, who was just pipped at the post to take a hard won silver in the Girls Middleweight division.

Rhys and Harri meanwhile, were making light work of their opponents in the Boys Middleweight and Lightweight divisions, both claiming bronze medals along the way.

The day ended with the tag teams, which also proved fruitful as several team members made amends for earlier disappointments.

Seren and Jack joined mixed club teams to grab a bronze and gold respectively, while the girls (Emily, Alisha and Grace) and boys (Sean, Harri and Alex) both formed combination belt teams to add a further silver and bronze to the team stash.

Full details of classes throughout the Vale are at www.jstkd.co.uk with a free taster lesson for all new students.

VW

Barrivale Bridge Club results

THE results for Barrivale Bridge Club for November 28 are as follows:

First, Mick Green and Kay Dyer, 76.56 per cent; second, Mike Close and Peter Millar, 72.92; third, Jane Brook and Ken Hannah, 57.81.

The handicap winners were Mick Green and Kay Dyer.

As always, new members are welcome at the club and a partner may be arranged, if required. If you would like to join us, call 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or call in at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. Beginners and improvers classes run on Friday mornings.

LH

Vale horses in close finish

TWO horses from the Vale, *Apollo Creed* (trained by Evan Williams) and *Jaunty Flyer* (trained by Tim Vaughan), fought out the finish of the opening Likes Landrover Novices' Hurdle at the recent Ffos Las meeting.

It was the former, ridden by Adam Wedge, which got home by a neck and which went off the odds-on favourite.

Debbie Hamer's *Magical Man* was also involved in a close finish to the Penchwc Holiday Park Handicap Chase as that horse too won by a neck from Dai Rees's *Misty Mai*.

CHRISTIAN'S HAYDOCK PARK WINNER

Ogmore by Sea's Christian Williams' *Limited Edition*, partnered by Welsh jockey James Bowen, landed the £50,000 BetFair Exchange Handicap Hurdle at Haydock Park, finishing some eight lengths ahead of *Man Of Plenty*.

Evan Williams' *Clyne*, which was made the 9-4 favourite, was a further 12 lengths away back in third place.

Christian, who used to be assistant trainer to Evan, was saddling his first big race winner and further success seems to be coming his way.

CONNOR CHALKS UP FIRST WINNER

Connor Brace, aged 16, a member of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, chalked-up his first point-to-point winning ride when landing the novice riders' race at the Point-To-Point Owners & Riders' meeting at Barbary Castle last Sunday on his grandfather David Brace's 10-year-old *William Money*.

It was the former pony racing champion rider's third ride in a point-to-point.

JANE'S HEREFORD WINNER

***Definately Vinnie*, a 25-1 outsider trained by Llancarfan's Jane Mathias, came home four lengths ahead of the favourite *The Last But One*, trained by legendary Paul Nicholls, in the Lower Hope Farms Maiden Hurdle at Hereford on Wednesday (November 29).**

Definately Vinnie , whose dam *Sohapara* was a leading point-to-pointer for Jane, was ridden by Connor Ring.

Jane, a former point-to-point rider, is featured in my book *Racing Rogues - The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales*.

Not that she a rogue by any means but she is one of the small time one-horse permit holders who are the backbone of National Hunt racing.

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105 Talbot Road, Talbot Green, CF72 8AE. 01443 222420.

Vale AM offers Season's greetings and reflections

WITH the festive season underway, the Christmas lights are brightening our towns and villages.

The concerts have started with the RNLI Festival of Christmas Praise at All Saints' on December 1, raising over £1,000 for this wonderful organisation and there are many more concerts to enjoy over the coming weeks until Christmas.

It is also a time to reflect on the past year and to update on Assembly business as I move into my new role as a backbencher for the first time since I became an Assembly Member in 1999.

Being a Minister in the Welsh Government for over 18 years has been an enormous privilege but also a weighty responsibility and I am enjoying new freedoms and opportunities to serve in the Assembly since leaving government last month.

I was pleased to ask my first 'oral assembly question' to my successor, Julie James AM on the likely impact of Universal Credit on the use of foodbanks, reporting on the plight of a mother with five children who came to the Vale Foodbank one Friday needing food for her family over the weekend. The Foodbank helped her but pointed to the adverse impact of changes in welfare benefits and Universal Credit which will include cuts for many family incomes.

Last week I met the Vale foodbank volunteers at Tesco in Barry helped by Barry Rotary Club, as they collected from generous customers for the Christmas foodbank season. The Big Wrap will also provide presents for children across the county.

I asked my first question to the First Minister on the action the Welsh Government is taking to eliminate violence against women and girls marked by White Ribbon Day on

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by VALE AM JANE HUTT

November 25. He reported on the Government's commitment to tackling violence against women and I followed this up reminding the Assembly of the shocking statistic that on average, two women a week are killed by a partner or ex-partner in England and Wales.

New opportunities for me include being invited to become Patron of Atal y Fro in the Vale and also Patron of the Wales wide organisation BAWSO – both providing services to tackle domestic abuse and undertake pioneering work to help prevent violence against women.

I spoke at the annual Light a Candle multi-faith event at Llandaff Cathedral on November 27. The Cathedral was packed with people following a march from Llamau Housing who provide service for young people here in the Vale and across Wales. It was good to see representatives from Barry Soroptimists of (which I am a member) at the event.

Attending the funeral of a dear friend and colleague Carl Sargeant was the saddest day of this month but there was widespread recognition of the role he has played over the past decade and in my tribute to Carl to the Assembly, I recalled his visit Gibbonsdown following his announcement of funding for the refurbishment of the estate. I also spoke of his commitment to the overall regeneration of Barry as a Minister and the strong stance he took against fracking, introducing a moratorium in 2015.

Over the past year I have supported DIAG by convening meetings with NRW (Natural Resources Wales) and a range of statutory bodies who have responsibility for public health, health and safety and fire and rescue services.

Having secured an extension to the next stage of consultation on the Environmental Permitting process to a full eight week period I am now supporting DIAG in the presentation of their objections alongside my own – following the deeply disappointing news that NRW was minded to issue a permit. The campaign will continue with the consultation into the New Year.

The sun came out for a very moving event held on November 30 in Alexandra Gardens in Cathays Park when the Gift of Life Stone for Organ and Tissue Donors was re-dedicated by Kidney Wales with a group of Barry families and friends of donors.

To stand alongside Gaynor Taylor, Colin and Betty Burgess and hear the words devised by Colin Burgess 'They cared for those helped. And those they helped remember' was a great privilege.

Llinos Lee S4C presenter and school friend of Richard Taylor (whose skate park in the Knap will forever remind us of him) spoke about her memories of Richard. Both Richard and Louise (Colin and Bet's daughter) carried donor cards and it was fitting that this re-dedication took place on the second anniversary of the pioneering Human Transplantation Act which is now being taken up in England.

The late Rhodri Morgan was the instigator of this new legislation and this is just one example of his legacy as First Minister of Wales who we are now greatly missing as this year draws to an end. But his recently published memoirs have provided a great record of his achievements.

Nadolig Llawen.

New Ewenny development

Former Wales and British Lions rugby legend Phil Bennett (second right), attended the recent launch of Westacres' Priory Gardens forthcoming housing development in Ewenny.

Music and poetry raises cash for church's organ fund

The Ogmore Vale Ladies Choir.

Rev Jason Askew and wife Debbie.

Organiser Heather Phillips.

A HAPPY evening of music and poetry was enjoyed at Christchurch, Ogmore Vale on November 24 when a marvellous sum of £505 was raised by a packed audience to help the chapel's fund for a new Hammond-style electric organ.

It was organised by chapel member Heather Phillips.

Taking part in the programme were Joe Sendell and his sister Lily, who both sang solos; Debbie Kent who sang two songs in Welsh; Jim and John from Poets and Pints, Porthcawl – Jim sang a sea song about the *Samtampa* disaster which he wrote by special request from Heather, and John, who is a published children's poet, sang one of his own songs with a chorus for the audience to share.

The chapel minister Rev Jason Askew and wife Debbie played a musical interlude with guitar and flute; and the new Ogmore Vale Ladies' Choir sang nine songs.

The choir's two youngest members, Leah and Sam, sang 'The

Olive Tree' as a duet and Jill Trotman who is another chapel member recited 'The Music Makers'.

Heather read some of her own poetry and recited in Welsh a poem about Sger Farmhouse. The Ogmore Vale Silver Band played a medley of tunes and also led a sing-along to complete a very busy evening.

Heather wishes to thank again all the performers and helpers and of course everyone who supported the event and donated so generously.

If any ladies are keen to join the choir they will be warmly welcomed. Practices are held every Wednesday from 7pm in the Bethlehem Centre (nearly opposite Paul's Chippy), Ogmore Vale.

Heather Phillips

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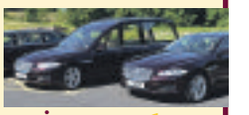

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Family Notices

COLES
(Née Fincham)
Joan Ida

Suddenly and very unexpectedly on 27th November 2017, Joan, aged 82 years. Devoted and loved wife of Gerald, her soul mate for 60 years. Dearly loved wonderful mum of Brenda, Wendy and the late Wayne (reunited). Loving proud Nan of Chloe, Ellie and Tomos, respected mother-in-law of Stewart and Mike. Dearly loved sister, sister-in-law, aunty and great friend of many.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare. Until the service to celebrate her life at All Saints Church on Tuesday, 12th December at 11.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Premature Baby Unit Swansea c/o the funeral director.

Joan will be sadly missed by everyone and will stay in our hearts forever x.

KNIGHT
John

John passed away peacefully at home on 5th December 2017, aged 82. Devoted husband to Beryl, loving father to Carol, Joy, Susan and Peter. Respected father-in-law, much loved grandad and great grandad.

He will be hugely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 18th December, service 1.30pm at St Curigs Church, Porthkerry, followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery.

Family and friends are welcome to join in a celebration of John's life at Rhoose Social Club, Fontygary Road, Rhoose from 3pm.

CULE
Gwyneth Audrey

Peacefully, at Llandough Hospital, on Friday, 24th November, Gwyneth Audrey of St Nicholas. Much loved aunt of Jayne and all her great and great-great nieces and nephews and a very dear friend of Cyril and family.

Funeral Monday, December 11th, service at St Nicholas Church at 12 noon, followed by committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only, donations if so desired for Diabetes UK c/o W.H Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN (Tel 01443 223368).

JONES
Albert Edward 'Eddie'

Retired Traction Inspector, British Rail, Canton. Passed peacefully surrounded by his family on November 26th, 2017 at Llandough Hospital. Devoted husband of Eunice, beloved dad to Tony and the late Vivian. Much loved father-in-law of Sara and doting grandfather and great grandfather.

Funeral service on Monday, December 11th, 2017 at 12 noon in Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, Barry, CF62 9PX.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, will be for The British Heart Foundation and Alzheimer's Society and can be given at the service or online via greenwillowfunerals.com (Donations).

All further enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Rd, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel 02920 514627.

GORE
Brenda Joan

Peacefully on the 3rd December at the Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Towers, Brenda passed away after a short illness, aged 79 years.

Beloved wife of the late Tom, loving mother to Stephen and Karen, proud grandmother to Sophie, Isabel and James.

She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Tuesday, 12th December at 1.45pm. Family flowers only, donations welcomed to Marie Curie Hospice c/o the funeral director (cheques only).

Acknowledgements

BROWN
Paul

Andy, Enfys and Jane would like to thank all their friends for the many messages of sympathy and support received.

The family would like to thank Rev'd David Boult, harpist Caroline Greenwood and the many friends who came to the celebration of Paul's life.

WILSON
Alan

Lyn would like to thank everyone for the thoughtfulness and care shown to our family over the last few weeks. We have been overwhelmed and gratified by the number of cards, flowers and messages. The donations to Forget Me Not Chorus and Valeways were very generous and a tribute to Alan that he was so well thought of.

Thank you to the many people who attended the service at Coychurch; to Rev John James who conducted the service with gentle humour and sympathy; to Bob Johnson and Lisa of Robert D Johnson and to Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, all of whom made the celebration of Alan's life such a positive experience.

I would also like to thank the members of Half Tidy, the staff of Crossroads in the Vale, the Forget Me Not Chorus and friends within and without the Scottish dancing community who provided tremendous help and support to us both - while Alan was at home and to me in later years.

Thanks go to the staff at St Barruc's Ward, Barry Hospital, who looked after Alan in his last days with humour, compassion and dignity.

Lastly, a big thank you to the dedicated staff of Bethel House, Dinas Powys, for the caring, compassionate and respectful way in which they looked after Alan and me while he was a resident there. Their friendship and humour cheered us along the way.

Our journey through dementia has been long and hard but all those mentioned above made the road that much easier and I cannot thank you enough.

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In Memory

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Pauline Galton

Died peacefully on 11/12/2016.

Always remember you my darling, your dear husband Mickey. Always loved and missed by your children Janet, Sarah and Paul, grandchildren Amiena, Mohammed, Jamal, Sabine, Jessica, Lydia and Rhys. Also, your great grandchildren Saeed, Sarah, Mohammed, Ibrahim, Abdullah, Scarlett, Khalifa, Amara and Henley xxx

Birthdays

HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY

Angel Emerson-Thomas

on 8 December 2017

A fantastic mother and incredible nana for all her grandchildren! Love from the whole family xxx

Happy Birthday Isla

I am a square!

Anniversary's

Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary!

Jayne & Jamie Chick

on 10 December

With love and best wishes Louise, Glyn & Jacob; Emma, Chris & Lloyd and Sue xxx

Congratulations
Jenn & Geoff Herman
on your Golden Wedding Anniversary on 9th December
Lots of love Natalie, Amelia, Annie & all the family xxx

Retirement

Congratulations
GLENYS!
on your deserved retirement after over two decades of District Nursing in Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Barry.
All our love from all the family xxx

Missing Cat

Have you seen Alfie?

Alfie has been missing from Groeswen, Llantwit Major since 14th November 2017.

Alfie never goes far and his grieving family are missing him desperately. Alfie is a microchipped and neutered male with distinguishing markings. Alfie is on medication and is due to see the vet very soon.

A reward is offered for information leading to his safe return. Please contact Sally on 07717492311 or 01446 795665.

Christmas Greetings

Wishing all our friends and family a Very Happy Christmas & a Peaceful 2018

With much love from David and Jane Maggs

This year we are supporting The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal for the homeless.

JONES
Len and Carol
Wish friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Instead of cards, a donation will be made to Velindre Hospital.

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Mali Griggs, Elli Thomas, Lee Costa, Mike Humphries and Lee Jackson.

Karate club achieves success

THERE was great success at the United World Championship (UWK) for Karate Wales governing body and for the Cogan Welsh Kyokushinkai Karate Club.

Elli Thomas not only became Romanians open European champion in November but she has also took first place in Italy last weekend, December 2/3, which makes her the youngest full-contact, Kyokushin world champion in Wales in the under-16s category.

She also took the third place in kata alongside with her teammates who also took third place in their kata categories, Mike Humphries, and Mali Griggs.

The fourth member of the contact team - Lee Jackson - was unlucky; he missed third place in the kata by 0.1 points.

All non-contact information can be seen on the Karate Wales website.

LC

Lee Costa (instructor) with Elli Thomas.

Another win for veteran Bryan!

Robert Calcaterra with Trevor Wooding, winner Bryan Owen, James Mordecai and Matthew England.

THE monthly meeting for members and guests of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday at the Vale Resort at Hensol when those participating had the opportunity of playing the Lakes course which they found in extremely good condition.

With a range of excellent prizes provided by the days generous sponsor Herbert R Thomas & Co of Cowbridge together with perfect weather conditions it was not surprising the standard of golf was extremely high.

Returning the highest individual stableford score of 37 points to win the Herbert R Thomas Cup was Bryan Owen followed by Trevor Wooding who scored 36 points.

Society captain Ray Thomas finished third with 35 points followed by Jim Hayes who scored 34 points.

In the guest and visitors section Matthew England with 33 points finished in first place just ahead of Robert Calcaterra who also scored 33 points. Dr John Brazier finished in third place with 32 points.

Nearest the pins on the par-3 holes were John Davies, Dan Jarvis, Henry Filer, Reg Davies and Peter Francis.

Society president Geraint Davies hit the longest drive down the selected fairway to win the longest drive prize and Robbie Llewellyn made a welcome return to the winners enclosure to collect a bottle of whiskey when correctly guessing 81 balls would not make the journey home. This raised £75 for the Barnados charity.

The society's next get together will be the Christmas meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 14 at St Athan Golf Club.

TMC

Ben shines at judo championships

Ben (second right) with fellow medal winners.

BEN MOORE, a Year 8 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, travelled to the English Institute for Sport in Sheffield to compete in the British Judo Championships.

This year Ben has moved up an age band and was competing in the under-14s, even though he is still only 12.

Ben battled his way through some very tough competition making his way into the semi-final.

Here he narrowly lost out in golden score to the eventual gold medallist.

Ben then continued to battle through the repechage to win the bronze medal.

Due to his performance during the contest, Ben was selected to have the great honour of carrying the Welsh flag out for the medal ceremony. Well done Ben!

Comedian makes his mark on the club circuit

HAVING hosted BBC Wales' Radio Saturday afternoon show *The Unexplainers*, touring the UK with his stand-up comedy show and appearing on Josh Widdecombe's TV show *Josh*, Welsh comedian Mike Bubbins hasn't had a great deal of time to take up the sport which first fascinated him in his youth: golf.

"I took up the game because the rest of my family were keen golfers at Brynhill Golf Club but the only one who I could beat 'on a good day' was my sister, but I stood no chance against my parents who were in a different league."

Being a fan of contact sports, Mike, who was also a PE teacher for a time, was understandably drawn to rugby which he played professionally until family life and his career as an entertainer took over.

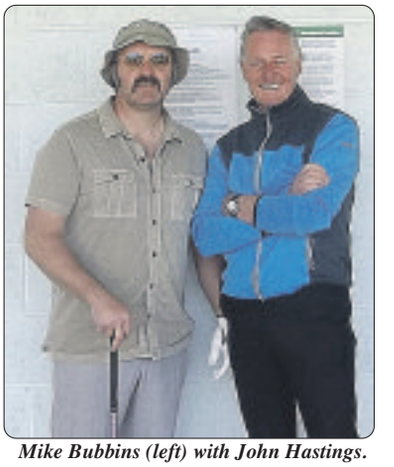
"My natural instinct when playing rugby was to smash into everyone who got in my way and thought I could do the same with a golf ball."

Realising this approach had its limitations, Mike decided to seek help and on his father Bob's recommendation booked a course of lessons with St Andrew's Major golf professional, John Hastings.

"Apart from bringing me into this world it's the best thing he's ever done for me," said Mike, adding that John's approach to coaching has worked wonders for his golf game.

"Playing at St Andrew's with my father is now a much more enjoyable experience and for the first time in my life I can actually give him a game."

CS



Mike Bubbins (left) with John Hastings.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Barry Kyokushin brings home five young British champions

ON November 18, Barry Kyokushin Karate club attended the IKO British Knockdown championships with a team of 10 students.

In Kata (pattern/form) we had Rhian Evans (22), with eight Kata titles behind her; she faced some formidable competitors. Come the final rounds she faced off with two competitors from Spain, who are renowned for producing the finest kata competitors in the world.

Rhian performed exceptionally well but was just pipped to the top spot by one of her Spanish competitors; in this European category Rhian placed a very respectable second.

Leanne Lirio (13), also competing in Kata, had a very hard category. Also with Spanish competitors, Leanne came through to the final with club mate Kelly Shi (13), and a very skilled Spanish competitor and was once again just pipped to the top spot: Leanne took second and Kelly took third place.

Justine Bolanos (12) and Angel Benevent (11) found themselves in a category together and once again European competitors in domination. A tough category in which Angel went out in the first round, but Justine hung on in there and performed well but again just missed out on the top spot to her European competitor: Justine placed second in this category.

Ben Bolanos (13) also competed in Kata but missed out on a spot in the final rounds.

Competing in Cadet Knockdown Angel Benevent took to the mat against a strong Bettws competitor. Angel fought well and dominated her first round and took the win, also in this category was Justine Bolanos who came up against her club mate in the final. As hard as it is for club members to fight each other, Justine ended the round quickly by taking two wazari (half points) to take a win and the first title of the day.

James Shi (11) was in the largest category of the day, James fought through five hard rounds of Kumite to take a very much deserved first place and the second title of the day.

Leanne Lirio was up next, against familiar opponent Savanah Allum, whom Leanne competed against in the previous Welsh Championships and scored with ippon, taking a second place. Determined to do better, Leanne took to the mat and fought with great accuracy and skill and took a clean win from her old adversary.

Leanne fought very well and in the final came up against a strong Polish fighter and although the Polish fighter was clearly strong, Leanne once again adopted her excellent footwork and clean technique and took the win in the final making her the third title of the day.

Ben Bolanos and Brodie Taylor (12) were in a category together, Brodie was up first and fought very well in the first round and won by decision. He then took to the mat a second time and, again with great skill, took a win by decision.

Then up was Ben Bolanos who was fortunate to have a bye in the first round, taking him into the quarter finals where he dominated his first opponent and won. Brodie was then up for the semi-finals but fought a much faster and tougher opponent and was unfortunate not to place; but took fourth in this category. Ben then took to the mat for the semi-finals and once again stormed his opponent and won.

He then came up against Brodie's opponent in the finals and it was a real test for Ben; but with great footwork and clean skilled kicks Ben took the win and won his club a fourth title of the day.

Cerys Jones (14) was up for the 14-15years. No body armour in this category, Cerys had a tough first round against a strong Spanish black belt. Cerys fought well against this much stronger fighter and was unfortunate not to win, but went on to fight for third place against a fighter from England.

Cerys went the full two minites and the judges' decision was a draw, so Cerys went on to a one-minute extension and just clinched a win with wazari. Cerys took a well deserved third place.

Up for Adult Knockdown was Gareth Dutton (32) fighting in Men's Heavyweight. Gareth fought very well and although he lost due to a technical foul in the first round, he went on to take a respectable third place.

Finally up for the day for our club was Rhian Evans. Fighting in the Novice Ladies' Lightweight category, Rhian came against a very strong fighter from England. Rhian fought well in the first round but found it difficult to score her opponent.

The judges' decision was that of a draw and went on for a two-minute extension. It was during this extension that Rhian scored, with Jodan Mawashi Geri to shake her opponent and scored wazari – taking the win and claiming her club the fifth and final title of the day.

Club instructor Sensei Phill said: "All students performed exceptionally well, I'm so proud of all of them for their efforts at this tournament. Our club seems to be going from strength to strength, for in the last 10 years we have taken over 40 titles.

"My students will now focus on their grading in December, we have our Welsh Championships to work towards early next year, we have a tournament in Bulgaria, both junior and senior summer camps where we hope to promote the club's 13th black belt and we have our club's 40th anniversary to celebrate – so lots going on. It's going to be another very exciting year ahead for us."

Barry Kyokushin Karate club now trains out of the Barry YMCA. They have classes for 4-5yr-olds, 6-10 yr-olds, 11-15yr-olds and 16yrs +. These classes are held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Any further info can be found at www.bkkc.co.uk.

Vale of Glamorgan Pool League news round-up

THE Castle Dark Lords moved up in to second place in the Vale Asprou Barbers Pool League after travelling to Barry Dock Liberal Club and coming away with a hard fought 8-4 victory.

The Dark Lords led 3-1 after the first set of singles with wins from Gareth Foxall, Wayne hobson and captain Sean Kelly beating Libs Rejects captain alex Campbell.

The first set of doubles was dominated by the Rejects with Mike Roberts and Tom Ivins proving too strong for Foxall/Hobson and James Bastow and captain Campbell outplaying young Ralph Miners and Sean Kelly making it 3-3 at the halfway point.

In the second set of singles the Dark Lords would win all four frames with Gavin Rowlands making no mistakes and Kelly, Wayne Hobson and Foxall all winning, giving the Dark Lords a 7-3 lead.

The last session of doubles were shared and a final score of 8-4. The Libs' standout player was Tom Ivins, winning three out of four frames.

For the Dark Lords it was a much harder task to choose the best player, with Gareth Foxall and Wayne Hobson both playing well.

Millwood Pot Jacks set sail for the Island to face the good, the bad and the Ship.

The first half of the match was an evenly contested game with both teams winning three frames apiece, but the Ship soon sprung a leak, losing the next five frames in a row with some unlucky in-offs while potting the black.

The Ship's Bobby Avaient and his brother, captain Graham Avaient, would win their singles and doubles in the first half and give the impression this was a win for the Ship, but Pot Jacks' captain Gary Williams, ably supported by Nigel Tutton, Nick Parry and man of the match Steve Sewell, had other ideas and dominated the second half of the game, winning five out of the six games contested.

The Ship's Simon Moore and Mike Dunn stopped the rot, winning the last doubles for a final score of Ship 4, Pot Jacks 8.

Finnegans from Barry Island had the unenviable task of playing the league leaders Billy United away at the King William IV pub in Cadoxton.

An emphatic first frame win for Harry Asprou was followed by wins for Kane Grindley and captain Ian Doel to give the Islanders a surprised, but deserved, 3-0 lead.

The Billy would fight back and win the next three frames and level the score to 3-3. In the second session of singles Harry Asprou would win again, this time getting the scalp of John Farrugia.

Kane Grindley beat Gary Roberts and the score was now 5-3 to Finnegans.

Last year's champions fought back with captain Anthony Mullins and Ian Roberts winning their singles and then controlling the last session of doubles, with Mark Ingram playing beautifully and clearing up in great style.

John Farrugia and Ian Roberts took the last doubles and secure a 7-5 win for the Billy. Finnegans rightly walked out with their heads held high after playing so well all night in what was a great advert for the league.

The Glenbrook Wanderers had an emphatic 11-1 win over O'Briens. This was an outstanding performance from the Wanderers with every player fighting hard for every point available on the night.

O'Briens struggled for answers against such precise finishing, Jeff Morgan winning O'Briens' only point.

The Wanderer' man of the match was David Jones who won four out of four matches, a feat that was matched by Jeff Bartle and Nick Taylor.

This result puts the Wanderers into fourth place in the league.

The Thursday night pool league are still looking to sign up players of all capabilities and The Baruc Arms are looking for two new players to join their newly-formed team.

Please phone Anthony on 07568 444180 or text Joe on 07870 498738, and please continue to follow us the Vale of Glamorgan Pool League on Facebook.

JB

On and Off the Turf latest with Brian Lee

ALAN Johns, riding the Tim Vaughan-trained *Nathans Pride*, landed the Novices Limited Handicap Chase at far flung Musselburgh last week.

An 8-1 chance, nine-year-old *Nathans Pride*, who carried top weight of 12st, 1lb, won by three parts of a length from *Vercinggetorix* in a field of seven runners.

TIM'S BANGOR WINNER

***Bells Of Ailsworth* was a 6-1 winner of the Bangor On Dee Handicap Chase over three miles for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan last Saturday.**

Well-ridden by the in-form Alan Johns, seven-year-old *Bells Of Ainsworth* won by six lengths in a field of eight runners to land the £6,256 prize.

EVAN'S WINNER

Llanharan's Evan David chalked-up his first point-to-point winner of the season when landing the open maiden race on Andrew Pennock's *This Briac* at the Cambridge University United Hunts Club meeting at Cottenham on Sunday.

BRIAN LEE

Boxers take on Bluebirds at charity darts evening

ON Sunday, December 17, a truly exciting event will be taking place at Cardiff's Exchange Hotel.

Darren Wilson's D & J Promotions will be at the forefront of a spectacular night of darts aptly named 'Bluebirds Vs Boxers', a darts tournament between four professional boxers and four professional footballers from Cardiff City FC.

The event features Cardiff City footballers Joe Ralls, Anthony Pilkington, Lee Peltier and Iceland captain Aron Gunnarsson, who will square off against IBF Featherweight world champion Lee Selby, his brother WBC International Flyweight champion Andrew Selby, two time light-heavyweight world champion Nathan Cleverly and former world champion Steve Robinson.

Peltier and Iceland captain Aron Gunnarsson will play against each other in a mini-tournament for the '2 Wish Upon a Star' Charity Trophy. Ex-Wales and British Lion cap Andy Powell will be the host for the evening.

To purchase tickets please visit https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bluebirds-and-boxers-changing-sports-for-charity-tickets-37919966641.

LIAM HARTERY

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, November 28 a full programme of league matches was completed.

The present league leaders, the Edmondes B, were too strong for this year's newcomers the One Town Hall Square, winning 9-0, but all the other matches were very close, all ending 5-4.

Llanharry defeated the Edmondes A, the Farmers Arms beat the Victoria Inn, the Highwayman Inn defeated the Edmondes C and the Six Bells Inn beat the Hairy Farmers. The Red Lion Inn had a bye.

The number of 180 throws this season continued to increase with Simon Perkins (Edmondes C) hitting a 180, while Ceri Evans (Llanharry) scored 177. Another notable performance was Martin Thomas (Edmondes B) winning a singles leg in just 10 darts.

Present league standings after nine weeks are: Edmondes B (55 points), Llanharry and Six Bells Inn (49), Highwayman Inn (45), Hairy Farmers (43), Edmondes C (38), Edmondes A (37), Farmers Arms (34), Victoria Inn (29), One Town Hall Square (16) and Red Lion Inn (10).

Next week, Tuesday December 12, another full programme of league matches will be played.

The Hairy Farmers hosts the Edmondes B, the Highwayman Inn hosts Llanharry, the Edmondes C hosts the Victoria Inn, the Six Bells Inn hosts the Red Lion Inn and the One Town Hall Square hosts the Farmers Arms. The Edmondes A have a bye.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

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15 15 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI SE 3dr, Audi warranty July 2018, DAB, USB, 19k, black.....**£10995**
14 64 AUDI A3 1.2 T FSI Sport 5dr S-Tronic, Bluetooth, DAB, AMI, 23k, black.....**£13995**
16 16 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI Quattro Sport 4dr, Audi warranty April 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, 13k, white.....**£17495**
16 66 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 3dr S-Tronic automatic (184bhp), sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, 18"alloys, 5k, met grey, half-leather.....**£21995**
14 14 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI SE Technik 4dr, sat nav, cruise, 39k, grey, full leather.....**£12495**
17 66 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 4dr Multitronic automatic (190bhp), sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, pdc, 6k, met grey, half-leather.....**£24995**
16 66 AUDI A5 2.0 TDI Black Edition Plus Quattro 5dr S-Tronic, Audi warranty, Oct 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, 12k, misano red, full leather.....**£24995**
15 65 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Ultra SE Executive 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, Audi park system plus, cruise, 19"alloys, heated seats, black with full leather.....**£23995**
08 08 AUDI TT 3.2 V6 Quattro 3dr (247bhp), sat nav, xenons, BOSE, cruise, heated seats, petrol blue, full leather.....**£7995**
15 65 AUDI TT 2.0 TDI Sport Ultra 3dr Coupe, Audi warranty Sep 2018, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 3k, white, half leather.....**£20995**
12 12 BMW 116I Urban 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, 39k, white, full leather.....**£9995**
14 64 BMW 116D Sport 5dr, cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, privacy glass, choice.....**£10995**
16 66 BMW 116 D M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, grey.....**£15495**
13 13 BMW 118 D Sport Plus 2dr convertible, 18"alloys, heated seats, carbon black with full oyster beige leather.....**£12995**
14 64 BMW 118 2.0 D M Sport 3dr automatic, sat nav, Harman kardon, 18"alloys, 25k, white.....**£14495**
15 15 BMW 118 2.0 D Sport 5dr, BMW warranty April 2018, sat nav, sport plus pack, 18"alloys, 28k, red.....**£12995**
14 14 BMW 120 D M Sport 3dr (184bhp) sat nav, xenons, 18"alloys, estoril blue, full leather.....**£13995**
14 14 BMW 120 DSE 5dr (184bhp), Harman Kardon, pdc, dab, Bluetooth in red.....**£10495**
14 14 BMW 120 DXDrive M Sport 5dr (184bhp), widescreen sat nav, Harman kardon, heated seats,35k, met orange.....**£14495**
14 64 BMW M135 3.0 M Sport 3dr (320bhp) widescreen sat nav, 25k, white, with full red leather.....**£17995**
15 65 BMW M135 3.0 I 3dr automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, 18"alloys, 18k, choice, full leather.....**£19995**
14 64 BMW 218 DSE Active Tourer 5dr automatic, sat nav, park assist, heated seats, Bluetooth, 19k, silver, full leather.....**£15495**
14 64 BMW 220 I Sport 2dr coupe (184bhp), cruise, bluetooth, DAB, 28k, white.....**£15495**
16 16 BMW M235i 3.0 2dr convertible, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, PDC, silver, full leather.....**£24995**
14 64 BMW 220 D M Sport 2dr (190bhp), 18"alloys, Bluetooth, privacy glass, M rear spoiler, 38k, estoril blue with full leather.....**£16995**
14 64 BMW 220 D Sport 2dr coupe (190 BHP), sat nav, 18"alloys, black, full leather.....**£17995**
14 64 BMW 225D M Sport 2dr (218bhp) automatic, pro nav, reverse camera, white, full leather.....**£18995**
11 61 BMW 318 DES 4dr (143bhp), 18" alloys, privacy glass, Bluetooth, silver.....**£7995**
14 64 BMW 318 D Sport 4dr, sat nav, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 37k, liquid blue.....**£14495**
14 64 BMW 318 D M Sport Estate automatic, Bluetooth, 19"alloys, 19k, estoril blue, full leather.....**£17995**
13 13 BMW 320 D M Sport 2dr coupe automatic, pro nav, 19"alloys, 33k, met blue, full leather.....**£14995**
15 15 BMW 320d EfficientDynamics BluePerformance Business Edition 4dr, BMW warranty June 2018, 18"alloys, sat nav, 15k, black, full oyster leather.....**£16995**
14 14 BMW 320 DM Sport GT 5dr, widescreen sat nav, cruise, pdc, heated seats, estoril blue, full leather.....**£16995**
14 14 BMW 320 D Sport XDRIVE 4dr, sat nav, bluetooth, 17"alloys, 28k, black.....**£13995**
15 15 BMW 320 D Luxury GT 5dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2018, 18"alloys, 30k, beige, full leather.....**£18995**
15 65 BMW 320 D BluePerformance M Sport 4dr, BMW warranty Sep 2018, M Sports+ package, sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, black, full leather.....**£18495**
15 15 BMW 330 D M Sport XDRIVE 4dr automatic (313bhp), BMW warranty Sep 2018, pro nav, 19"alloys, 21k, red, full leather.....**£20995**
16 16 BMW 330 E Sport 4dr automatic Start/Stop, sat nav, cruise, pdc, 8k, choice.....**£21495**
17 17 BMW 320 D BluePerformance M Sport 4dr automatic, BMW warranty March 2020, M Sport + pack, pro nav, heated seats, Bluetooth with wireless charging, 8k, full leather, choice.....**£23995**
16 16 BMW 335d M Sport XDRIVE 4dr automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, 19"alloys, sat nav, 9k, choice, full leather.....**£22995**
16 66 BMW 335d M SPORT XDRIVE 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2019, M Sport + pack, 19"alloys, sat nav, 9k, black, full leather.....**£24995**
16 66 BMW 335d M Sport XDRIVE Estate automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2016, 19"alloys, sat nav, Harman kardon, 12k, choice, full leather.....**£25995**
14 14 BMW 420 D Sport convertible, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, 27k, white, full leather.....**£19995**
14 64 BMW 420 DM Sport 2dr automatic, 19"alloys, widescreen sat nav, service inclusive, Harman Kardon, cruise, pdc, full leather, choice.....**£17995**
14 64 BMW 420 D M Sport Gran Coupe automatic, 19"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, 16k, estoril blue, full ivory leather.....**£20995**
15 15 BMW 420 D Sport 2dr coupe, BMW warranty March 2018, sat nav, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, black, full leather.....**£17995**
15 15 BMW 420 D M Sport 2dr convertible automatic, BMW warranty Sep 2018, 19"alloys, head-up display, 25k, grey, full beige leather.....**£23995**
15 15 BMW 420 D M Sport XDRIVE 2dr coupe (M Performance body kit) BMW warranty April 2018, sat nav, 20"alloys, 22k, silver, full leather.....**£21995**
16 65 BMW 420 D M Sport XDRIVE Gran Coupe, BMW warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, 23k, grey, full leather.....**£21995**
14 64 BMW 430 D M Sport 2dr coupe automatic (258bhp), BMW warranty Oct 2017, sat nav, 19"alloys, 17k, choice, full leather.....**£21995**
15 15 BMW 430 D Luxury Gran Coupe 4dr automatic, BMW warranty May 2018, electric glass sunroof, sat nav, Harman kardon, 34k, grey, full leather.....**£20995**
14 64 BMW 435 D XDRIVE M Sport 2dr automatic (313bhp), BMW warranty Dec 2017, sat nav, 19"alloys, xenons, silver, full red leather.....**£23495**
12 62 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, 45k, black, full oyster leather.....**£14995**
13 63 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr, M Sport Plus package, 19"alloys, sat nav, 38k, white, full leather.....**£16995**
15 15 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, black, full leather.....**£17495**
15 15 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate automatic, BMW warranty April 2018, pro nav, 18"alloys, 31k, black, full leather.....**£18995**
15 65 BMW 520 DSE 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, blue, full leather.....**£17995**
15 65 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2018, sat nav, harman kardon, 19"alloys, 18k, choice, full leather.....**£21995**
15 65 BMW 520 DSE 4dr (190) automatic, BMW warranty April 2018, sat nav, bluetooth, black, full leather.....**£16495**
15 65 BMW 520 D M Sport Gran Turismo 5dr automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2018, 20"alloys, sat nav, 21k, white, full beige leather.....**£24995**
14 14 BMW 535 D M Sport 4dr automatic, pro nav, head-up display, cruise, black, full oyster beige leather.....**£19995**
16 16 BMW 535 D M Sport 4dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2019, M Sport plus pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, electric sunroof, 10k, white.....**£25995**
13 13 BMW 640 DSE 2dr coupe automatic, 20"alloys, soft close doors, reverse camera, sat nav, 31k, blue, full leather.....**£20995**
16 16 BMW 740 D M Sport XDRIVE 4dr automatic (315 BHP), BMW warranty June 2019, Premium package, 20"alloys, head-up display, electric glass sunroof, 18k, white, full leather.....**£45995**
14 63 BMW X1 XDRIVE18D X-Line 5dr, 18"alloys, heated seats, 15k, silver, full leather.....**£14995**
14 14 BMW X3 20D SE XDRIVE 5dr automatic, pro nav, 17"alloys, grey, full leather.....**£16495**
15 15 BMW X3 30D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty May 2018, panoramic roof, pro nav, 20"alloys, 23k, red, full ivory white leather.....**£28995**
15 65 BMW X5 XDRIVE 25D M Sport 5dr automatic (7-seater) BMW warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 17k, white, full leather.....**£37995**
14 14 BMW X6 30D XDRIVE 5dr automatic, sat nav, 20"alloys, dynamic pack, black, full oyster leather.....**£25495**
14 64 CITROEN GRAND C4 PICASSO 1.6 E-HDI Airdream Exclusive+ 5dr (7-seater) pan roof, sat nav, met blue.....**£11495**
14 64 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI DStyle + 3dr, 17"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, choice.....**£6995**
15 15 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI Airdream DSTYLE 3dr, Citroen warranty June 2018, privacy glass, crusie, 23k, yellow.....**£7495**
15 65 CITROEN DS3 1.6 BlueHDI DSTYLE 3dr, Citroen warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 10k, black.....**£9795**
16 16 DS DS4 1.6 BlueHDI Crossback 5dr, Citroen warranty April 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 18"alloys, met red, half leather..**£11995**
12 12 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop 3dr, 37k, white.....**£4495**
14 14 FIAT 500L 1.3 MultiJet Diesel Pop Star 5dr, air-con, cruise, alloys, Bluetooth, 33k, red.....**£6495**
15 65 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 T ecoBOOST Tiatnium 5dr, Ford warranty Nov 2018, 17"alloys, cruise, 11k, choice, half leather.....**£9995**
14 14 FORD FIESTA 1.0 ecoBOOST Zetec 5dr, alloys, USB, 12k, silver.....**£7995**
16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.6 EcoBoost ST200 3dr, sat nav, rear camera, heated seats, 7k, grey.....**£15795**
17 17 FORD FIESTA 1.6 EcoBoost ST-3 3dr, Ford warranty April 2020, heated seats, cruise, Bluetooth, 5k, spirit blue, half leather.....**£14995**
14 64 FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCI Titanium X 5dr, sat nav, rev camera, black, full leather.....**£8495**
14 14 FORD FOCUS 1.0 T ECOboost Zetec 5dr, appearance pack, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, silver.....**£7495**
16 16 FORD FOCUS 1.0 ecoBOOST Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty April 2019, cruise, Bluetooth, 8k, blue.....**£11995**
16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.0 ecoBOOST Zetec S 5dr automatic, Ford warranty Oct 2019, DAB, Bluetooth, 10k, white.....**£12995**
15 15 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec 5dr automatic, Ford warranty Aug 2018, DAB, alloys, Bluetooth, grey.....**£9495**
15 15 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Zetec S 5dr, Ford warranty July 2018, sat nav, Bluetooth, 23k, white.....**£11995**
14 64 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI Zetec S 5dr powershift automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, 24k, white.....**£10495**
14 14 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Zetec 5dr, 17"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, metallic blue.....**£10495**
14 64 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium X 5dr AWD automatic, pan roof, 19"alloys, heated seats, 13k, deep impact blue, full leather.....**£16495**
15 15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Sport AWD 5dr Powershift, Ford warranty July 2018, pan roof, 19"alloys, 28k, black, full leather.....**£16995**
17 17 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty April 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, 8k, white.....**£17995**

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14 64 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Business Estate Powershift automatic, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, blue with full leather **£10995**

16 16 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium Sport (X-Pack)(7-seater) Ford warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, park assist, 13k, grey, full leather **£20495**

16 16 HONDA CIVIC 1.4 V-TEC Plus 5dr, Honda warranty May 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 17k, red **£12495**

14 64 HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDI Bluedrive Active 5dr, Hyundai warranty Dec 2019, cruise, USB, PDC, 22k, grey **£8495**

15 65 HYUNDAI i40 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive SE 5dr DCT automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, black **£11995**

14 64 HYUNDAI IX35 1.7 CRDI Premium 5dr, Hyundai warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, black, full leather **£10495**

14 64 HYUNDAI IX35 1.7 CRDI Go 5dr, pan roof, cruise, 18"alloys, heated seats, 26k, white with half-leather **£11495**

10 60 HYUNDAI IX35 2.0 CRDI Premium 5dr, pan roof, cruise, black, half leather **£7995**

13 13 HYUNDAI IX35 2.0 CRDI Premium 5dr 4WD 5dr, Hyundai warranty March 2018, sat nav, sunroof, cruise, silver, half leather **£10995**

15 15 HYUNDAI IX35 2.0 CRDI SE NAV 5dr automatic 4WD, Hyundai warranty April 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, choice, half leather **£11995**

15 65 HYUNDAI TUSCON 1.7 CRDI Blue Drive SE 5dr, Hyundai warranty October 2020, Bluetooth, heated seats, 22k, silver **£13995**

11 61 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium 5dr automatic, 18"alloys, heated seats, 46k, grey, full leather **£9495**

14 64 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium 5dr, sat nav, rear camera, heated seats, in mocha with full leather **£12995**

16 16 JAGUAR F-Pace 2.0 i4D R-Sport AWD 5dr, Jaguar warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, 15k, met red, full leather **£31995**

14 14 JAGUAR XF 2.2 D Luxury 4dr automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, pdc, 30k, black, full leather **£15495**

15 15 JAGUAR XF 2.2 D Portfolio 4dr automatic, Jaguar warranty April 2018, sat nav, heated seats, reverse camera, choice, full leather **£17995**

15 65 JAGUAR XF 2.2D R SPORT 4dr Automatic, 19" alloys, sat nav, xenons, met black **£19495**

15 15 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 Multijet Trailhawk 5dr automatic 4WD, sat nav, cruise, pdc, heated seats, 12k, white with full leather **£16995**

17 17 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI 2 Estate ISG, Kia warranty April 2024, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 492 miles, black **£17495**

15 65 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI KX-2 AWD 5dr (7-Seater), sat nav, 18"alloys, side steps, cruise, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather **£19495**

14 14 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 2 ISG 5dr, panoramic roof, cruise, Bluetooth, 44k, white, half leather **£11995**

15 15 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 1 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty March 2022, cruise, bluetooth, USB, 22k, white **£12995**

11 61 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 AWD 5dr automatic, pan roof, cruise, Bluetooth, black with half-leather **£10995**

14 14 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-4 AWD 5dr automatic, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, black with full leather **£14995**

14 14 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-3 AWD 5dr, Kia warranty June 2021, pan roof, sat nav, heated seats, choice, full leather **£11495**

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-2 AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, pdc, 20k, white, half leather **£14495**

15 65 KIA VENGA 1.6 CRDI 4 ISG 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 22k, white, half-leather **£10995**

15 65 MAZDA 3 2.0 SE 5dr, Mazda warranty Sep 2018, Bluetooth, USB, 11k, crystal blue **£11495**

13 13 MAZDA 6 2.2 SE-L 4dr automatic, 17"alloys, cruise, soul red. **£8995**

15 65 MAZDA 6 2.2 D Sport Nav 4dr, Mazda warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, heated seats, 28k, silver, full leather **£13995**

14 64 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 DSE-L Lux Nav 5dr automatic, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, pdc, met blue **£11995**

14 64 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 TD Sport 4WD 5dr (175bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bose, full leather, choice **£12495**

14 64 MERCEDES A180 CDI Sport 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 35k, choice **£13995**

16 65 MERCEDES A180d AMG Line Executive 5dr, Mercedes warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 16k, met blue, half leather **£17995**

14 14 MERCEDES B180 CDI Sport 5dr 7G-DCT, 18"alloys, reverse camera, 35k, grey, full leather **£12995**

14 63 MERCEDES B200 CDI SE 5dr, sat nav, PDC, white **£10995**

15 65 MERCEDES CLA220 CDI Sport Estate 7G-DCT automatic, Mercedes warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, heated seats, 26k, white, half leather **£20995**

15 15 MERCEDES C220 CDI Bluetec AMG Line 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, Mercedes warranty April 2018, sat nav, heated seats, Bluetooth, grey, full leather **£19495**

15 15 MERCEDES C250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Sep 2018, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 15k, silver, half leather **£17495**

15 65 MERCEDES C250 CDI AMG Line (Premium Plus) Estate automatic, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, 25k, brilliant blue, full leather **£24995**

14 64 MERCEDES E220 CDI AMG Sport Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, airscarf heating, choice, full leather **£18995**

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Night Edition 7-G Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, privacy glass, choice, full leather **£17995**

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 16k, black, full leather **£20495**

13 63 MERCEDES E300 CDI Bluetec Hybrid AMG Sport Estate 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, parktronic, heated seats, silver with half-leather **£17995**

14 64 MERCEDES E350 CDI BlueTEC AMG Sport Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, 19" black alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, 20k, white, full leather **£23995**

16 16 MERCEDES GLA200 CDI Sport 7G-DCT automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, in black with full leather **£19995**

14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 26k, red, half-leather **£22995**

15 65 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line 5dr 4MATIC, pan roof, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 14k, south seas blue, half leather **£24995**

16 16 MERCEDES GLC250d Sport (Premium) 4MATIC 5dr 9-G, Mercedes warranty June 2019, sat nav, panoramic roof, reverse camera, Bluetooth, black, full cream leather **£31495**

14 64 MERCEDES SLK250 CDI Blueefficiency 2dr convertible 7G-Tronic Plus, airscarf-neck level heating, Bluetooth, iridium silver, full leather **£14995**

16 16 MINI COOPER 1.5 5dr automatic (TLC & Chili pack) Mini warranty May 2019, pan roof, 17"alloys, 2k, blue, half leather **£14995**

14 64 MINI COOPER 2.0 COOPER S 3dr (TLC Pack)(192bhp), JCW bodykit, Harman Kardon, 17"black alloys, 16k, volcanic orange, half leather **£13995**

15 15 MINI COOPER S 2.0 3dr (JCW sport pack) Mini warranty March 2018, 18"alloys, heated seats, 13k, black, full leather **£15995**

14 14 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 3dr Start/Stop, chili pack, cruise, Bluetooth, in blue with white roof and mirror caps **£8995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr (Media XL & Chili pack) MINI warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, black, half leather **£13995**

11 61 MINI COOPER 2.0 D 2dr convertible automatic (chilli pack) bluetooth, 17"alloys, 35k, white **£8995**

16 65 MINI COOPER 2.0 SD 5dr (170bhp), chilli pack, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, DAB, 9k, choice **£13995**

14 14 MINI ONE 1.6 D 3dr (Pepper pack) Bluetooth, 31k, blue **£7995**

15 65 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.2 DI-D GX3 5dr (7-Seater), cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, 9k, black **£17995**

16 16 NISSAN JUKE 1.2 DIG-T Tekna 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, Bluetooth, 10k, met grey **£11995**

15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 Acenta Premium 5dr Xtronic automatic, Nissan warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 22k, met red **£11495**

13 13 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, choice, full leather **£7995**

15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, Nissan warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 13k, red, full leather **£10995**

14 64 NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 DCI Tekna Double Cab Pick-Up 4dr, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, choice with full leather ..... **£9995+VAT**

15 65 NISSAN NOTE 1.2 N-Tec 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, white **£8995**

14 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 23k, choice, full leather **£13995**

15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 19"alloys, heated seats, 15k, silver with full leather **£15495**

14 14 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr X-Tronic automatic, sat nav, pan roof, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, 18k, in mocha with full leather **£14995**

15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr (130BHP), Nissan warranty May 2018, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, met red **£12995**

15 65 NISSAN QASQHAI 1.6 DCI N-TEC+ 5dr, Nissan warranty Sep 2018, sat nav, reverse camera, grey **£14995**

16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 4x4 5dr(7-seater) Nissan warranty April 2019, pan roof, cruise, 12k, black **£16495**

15 65 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 Active 3dr, Peugeot warranty Dec 2018, DAB, Bluetooth, USB, 8k, blue **£5995**

14 64 PEUGEOT 108 1.2 VTI Pure Tech Feline 3dr, DAB, reverse camera, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather **£6495**

16 66 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 BlueHDI Allure 5dr, Peugeot warranty Nov 2019, Bluetooth, DAB, alloys, 10k, blue **£8995**

15 65 PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 BlueHDI Active 5dr (7-seater) Peugeot warranty Nov 2018, cruise, 17"alloys, 14k, grey **£11495**

12 62 PEUGEOT RCZ 1.6 THP Sport 2dr coupe, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 42k, grey **£8995**

13 13 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Dynamique Media Nav 5dr, sat nav, cruise, 28k, red **£6295**

14 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique MediaNav Energy 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 18k, white **£9495**

15 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Media Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2018, sat nav, PDC, cruise, 17k, cream **£9995**

15 65 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Energy Dynamique S 5dr automatic, Renault warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, Bluetooth, PDC, white **£10995**

14 64 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI Energy GT Line Tom Tom 2dr Coupe, sat nav, Bluetooth, 35k, blue, half leather **£8495**

15 65 RENAULT SCENIC Xmod 1.6 DCI Energy Dynamique 5dr, Renault warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, PDC, met red **£9495**

16 16 SEAT LEON 1.2 TSI SE Sport Coupe 3dr, Seat warranty Aug 2019, cruise, Bluetooth, USB, 5k, red **£9995**

16 16 SKODA FABIA 1.2 TSI Colour Edition 5dr, cruise, DAB, Bluetooth, 15k, white with black roof **£9495**

16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE L 5dr, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, 7k, choice **£12495**

17 17 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE L Estate, Skoda warranty July 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, DAB, only 700 miles, met blue **£16995**

10 10 TOYOTA AURIS 1.33 VVT-I TR 5dr, climate, PDC, USB, 42k, blue **£4495**

14 14 TOYOTA VERSO 1.8 V-Matic Icon M-drive S 5dr automatic (7-seater) reverse camera, Bluetooth, cruise, silver **£10995**

16 65 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 T SRI 5dr (150bhp), Vauxhall warranty Feb 2019, 17"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, white **£10495**

17 17 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI Elite 5dr, Vauxhall warranty April 2020, sat nav, heated seats, 7k, silver, full leather **£12995**

£19995

17 66 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI ST-3 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, DAB, 10k, white, full leather

£13995

15 65 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr (Appearance Pack) Ford warranty Oct 2018, cruise, 23k, black, half leather

£12995

14 64 BMW 116 D EfficientDynamics 5dr, sat nav, xenons, pdc, heated seats, 16k, valencia orange with full leather

£23995

16 16 BMW 335 DXDrive M Sport GT 5dr automatic (313bhp) 19"alloys, sat nav, heated seats, 13k, full leather, choice

£21995

15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Line Cabriolet 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty October 2018, sat nav, 18"alloys, white, full leather

£27995

14 64 BMW 640 DM Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, M sport plus pack, 20"alloys, sat nav, 11k, black with full beige leather

£5995

12 62 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI Airdream DStyle Plus 3dr, cruise, 17"alloys, 45k, bronze with white mirror caps and roof

£20995

15 15 BMW 420 IM Sport Gran Coupe 5dr, 19"alloys, widescreen sat nav, heated seats, 21k, in white with full black leather

£15995

16 66 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 D COOPER 6dr, sat nav, chilli pack, 10k, white

£11995

13 13 MERCEDES A180 CDI Blueefficiency SE 5dr, sat nav, cruise, 38k, red

£15995

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Bridgend Sports mini and junior rugby round-up

IT was a mix of festivals, touring sides and derbies for all the Bridgend Sports mini and junior sides this week.

With the weather turning, the dedication of players, parents and coaches is tested but as evidenced by the number of games and players taking the field each week, the challenge of the weather is more than matched.

The under-7ens welcomed Llanharan to Newbridge Fields for a frenetic high energy match that saw the sides share 29 tries between them, Sports just pipping Llanharan 14-15. Mikey Heanue scored his first try for the Sports; Ollie Balmer (4), Aled Rees (3), Oscar Gee (2), Leo D'Adamo (2) Matthew Griffiths and Gethin Roberts also added further tries. Cealan Cawley made a fine debut appearance.

The under-8s hosted Llanharan, playing four tough periods of rugby. Both clubs were able to field two teams. Llanharan emerged with a superior try count from all four games but were pushed extremely hard by the Sports.

The four periods finished Sports 2 Llanharan 5; Sports 3 Llanharan 4; Sports 5 Llanharan 10; Sports 6 Llanharan 7.

The following Sports players scored the tries: Evelyn Murray, Rhys Evans, Kayden Jones, Max Hearing, Gethin Jones, while AJ Cawly was the Sports' star player of the week

The under-9s were also home to Llanharan in another tough, hard-fought encounter.

The Sports players played very well with an attitude to match. Llanharan were a good compact unit and took an early lead that they never lost.

The Sports' never say die attitude ensured they never gave up. They scored six tries but could not match the 10 scored by Llanharan.

Sports' try scorers were: Noah Roberts (2), Leo Giraud (2), Gethin Evans and Jayden Walters. Sports' star performer was Zac Curtis.

The under-10s played Tondu at home but failed to find the consistency and high standard reached last week.

They failed to achieve any continuity in their game. They lost the first half 0-28 but they fought back well in the second half to score two converted tries to make the final score 14-28.

Jacob Macleod was awarded player of the week for his contribution to the rucking and tackling.

The under-11s attended a Welsh Rugby Union festival at Bae Baglan. It was a good opportunity for the side to play teams from wider afield and to provide opportunities for players to play in different positions to aid development.

It proved to be a great experience as they played five short games and emerged with one loss out of the five games played.

It was a visit to the Llynfi Valley for the under-12s and the side were seeking to build on their positive development and to continue the momentum achieved over the previous seven weeks.

The youngsters knew this would be a tougher task than previous weeks, especially as five forward players were missing for the game.

Nevertheless, it is very evident the Sports continue to build a resilient squad that has a great team spirit and is growing in confidence as the weeks progress. Special mention is made of backs Abie Davies Jones, Callum Lewis and Jodie Keene who all stepped up to play in the forwards.

In miserable, damp, muddy conditions, with opponents who liked to keep the game tight it was going to be tough.

Nantyffyllon also had an outside-half in Jason Quigley, who was able to direct play behind the scrum. The Sports had to work very hard to contain their opponents and then show some creativity to score tries.

The Sports' creativity was on display early in the game. Nanty kicked off and soon faced an early counter attack.

The Sports ran the ball back to take play deep into the Nanty half, a spilled pass foiling the attack on this occasion. From the scrum the Sports defenders were up quick to force an error from the home team.

Another scrum saw the Sports attacking down the blind side, wing Tom Chick made good ground and a score looked certain but a knock on at the ruck conceded possession.

The clearance kick from the home side was picked up by Joel Rogers who made a break then timed a pass to Cian John, he passed to full back Callum Jones who made a good ground.

The pressure was sustained as the Sports drove on at two successive rucks. It was from the second ruck that Mackenzie Dent used his pace and strength to break the defensive line to score the first try.

Nantyffyllon equalised before the end of the half to set the game up for a thrilling second half.

Both sides were keen to get the second half off to a flying start as they competed and tackled everything that moved.

With the drizzle falling, Nanty used the boot to stem the Sports attacks. The tactic eventually took play up to the Sports goal line, but a solid defence and the boot of Callum Jones ensured that the attack came to nothing.

In a great show of character and teamwork the team tackled everything in sight.

ABOVE AND INSET: The under-12s were in action against Nantyffylon, supported (as evidenced in this picture) by a good crowd!

Abi Davies Jones, Callum Lewis, Iestyn John, Harri Williams and Dylan Parry were to the fore, but it was an all-round team effort.

Patience proved to be the order of the day this week for the Sports. A few minutes from the end, from a scrum in their own half, they opted to run with Cian John showing he was not going to be outdone by his opposite number.

He made a great outside break and then threw an absolute perfect long pass to put wing Tom Chick away; he raced down the touchline, outpacing his opponents and the covering defence to score under the posts from 60 metres out.

It was a moment of magic from the outside half and the wing and was an outstanding score that was a fitting match winner.

Success sometimes must be ground out and earned through a great team effort. The Sports under-12s had shown remarkable character to secure a hard-earned victory in difficult conditions.

Bridgend Sports Matchday squad. Abi Davies Jones; Callum Jones; Callum Lewis; Cian John; Dylan Morgan; Dylan Parry; Efan Dyer; Harri Williams; Iestyn John; Ieuan Pilliner; Jodie Keane; Joel rogers; Mackenzie Dent; Thomas Chick; Tyler Burton; Will Ellis.

The under-13s hosted a touring side from London, as St James' School visited the Bandstand Field.

The Sports got off to a good start as Sam Barraclough scored the first of his three tries to put the Sports on the front foot.

In what proved to be a competitive encounter St James forwards created problems for the Sports in the ruck area and soon registered two tries with one conversion.

The Sports fought back however with further tries from Flynn Bull, Luke Llewellyn, Sam Barraclough and Tristan Davies.

Sean Petty was on form with the boot with four conversions and a lovely chip across field for the Luke Llewellyn try.

The Sports backed this up with some great defensive play to round off a fine 38–12 win.

If defence was key to the under-13s' win, it was the attacking game, running rugby and great teamwork that was the feature of the under-14s success against Cefn Coed.

They gained an advantage by half-time and although Cefn Coed fought back with a try early in the second half, the Sports soon regrouped to score an additional three tries to outscore Cefn 27 points to 14.

Sports points scorers were Rhys Vaughan, Mac Francis, Joe Ezard (2) and Rhys Mitchell, with one conversion scored from the boot of Owain Peters.

The under-16s had a packed weekend, with a Friday night fixture under lights on the superb 4G facility at Coety Primary school followed by a Sunday morning home fixture against Porth.

Pencoed were victorious in a high-tempo Friday night fixture. It was played in great spirit which ended with Pencoed scoring eight tries to the Sports' five.

The Sports were a few players missing on Sunday, and Porth took the game 39-5, with Ethan Bevan scoring the single Sports try.

SP

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Helen John is sales director for PJC.

She is pictured with Owen, Will, Toby, Jack and Sam who attended to hand over the shoeboxes from the team.

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THIRD STRAIGHT VICTORY FOR WALES OVER THE SPRINGBOKS - BUT ONLY JUST!

Another shaky autumn ends with a narrow Welsh win

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE old line about France is that 'you never know which French team is going to turn up'.

Well, South Africa managed a neat variation on that, sending two teams along to play Wales on Saturday at the Principality Stadium.

The first had 'national embarrassment' written all over it and, but for a lack of ruthlessness from Wales, it should have been 21-0 down after only 10 minutes.

Then, a flawed but promising team took the field instead, and they made quite a comeback. Indeed, when you consider that the Springboks had a good try disallowed, while Wales had one given that should have been ruled out, Wales' final winning score of 24–22 was not one to get excited about.

Perhaps Wales were caught between pragmatism and planning for the future.

The pragmatic aspect of the game was that the current Springbok side defends against the kick ahead with all the calmness of Cpl Jones in *Dad's Army*.

Wales' opening try exposed their lack of positional sense, as Dan Biggar's pinpoint cross-kick was gathered unchallenged by Hallam Amos. His opposite number, Warrick Gelant, was nowhere to be seen and Amos' simple inside pass to Scott Williams put the Scarlets' centre over.

Three minutes later, Biggar tried a little dink over the Springbok defence. The full back and wing were both missing, but there were still three defenders in position to collect the ball. However, a bit of mutual delegation followed, and Hadleigh Parkes swooped for a try on his debut.

On the 10-minute mark, Amos gathered another Biggar kick ahead and made good ground. The Springbok defence was in total disarray, but Wales managed to let this third try slip through their fingers.

Perhaps Wales felt that to continue this strategy would not contribute much to the new expansive style that they are working on, but from that point on, The Springboks came more and more into the game.

The Welsh scrum started to creak, and the Springboks took heart. In fact, after 18 minutes they really should have been awarded a try when the powerful hooker, Marx, burst clear from a driving maul, and went over with five Welsh defenders clinging to him.

Referee Jerome Garces' instincts must surely have said 'try' but he passed it upstairs to TMO Rowan Kitt, who could not find a 100 per cent conclusive shot. In the real world, it was hard to find anyone who thought it was not a try.

Wales had another chance to extend the 14-0 margin soon after, when Scott Williams intercepted in his own 22, and put Steff Evans away.

It looked a certain try, until it became obvious that the South African right wing, Leyds, was eating up the ground on Evans, who opted to kick ahead. Speaking on *Scrum V,* Jeremy Guscott charitably said that Evans had "tightened up".

On the half hour, South Africa made it 14-3 when Handre Pollard kicked a penalty, but Wales increased their cushion when Coetzee, who looks a promising full back (if he can cut out the mistakes) took too long to wind up for a clearing kick which was charged down by Dan Biggar.

It was a torrid afternoon for the Welsh scrum.

Taulupe Faletau, whose overall performance was worth every penny that Bath will be fined for letting him play, gathered the ball and threw an inside pass to Parkes for his second try.

From South Africa's point of view, this was one that should have gone to the TMO, as it turned out that Faletau was fractionally in front of Biggar when he charged it down, but it wasn't their day.

Four minutes before half time, the Springboks showed that they had two quick wingers. Leyds had given notice before, when chasing down Steff Evans, but this time he fielded a Welsh kick ahead in his own 22 and set off, stepping inside Parkes and then shooting through a gap in the Welsh chasing defence before throwing a long pass out to the centre, Kriel.

He made ground before kicking ahead and the left wing, Gelant, made Aled Davies look as if he was running through treacle as he swept past him to score. Pollard's conversion made it 21–10 at half time.

By now, South Africa were supreme at the scrum – and Wales were getting penalised. The Springboks – unlike the All Blacks the previous week – were contesting the breakdown aggressively, and suddenly Wales' ball retention was not looking so good.

Things soon went from worrying to much worse for Wales. After five minutes, Pollard scored a simple try, stepping inside Aled Davies from four yards out, but crucially (as it would turn out) he missed the conversion.

Ten minutes later, the Springboks moved the ball left where they had numbers, and good handling put Kriel in at the corner. This time, Pollard succeeded with a more difficult conversion and Wales were trailing, 22–21.

There was the usual raft of changes on both sides as substitutes came on and the game lost some shape. The Welsh scrum was still in difficulty, and Welsh skipper Alun Wyn Jones spent far more time than usual 'asking the referee for clarification' after various calls went against Wales.

Wales did get back in the Springboks' 22, where they were awarded a penalty on 66 minutes, kicked by the reliable Halfpenny to put them back in the lead, 24–22, and they were able to see the game out.

All in all then, it was not a game to fill Welsh fans with optimism. Yes, we had injuries and we had players unavailable because they had returned to their English clubs. However, the same is true of South Africa.

Jeremy Guscott, who is usually kind to Wales, called it "second division" and it is hard to argue that he is way off the mark.

There was a plus for Wales in the two-try debut of Hadleigh Parkes, who was also awarded the man of the match. He has that Steve Fenwick-like quality of nearly always taking the right option.

Hallam Amos was a plus too, looking more assured in the side, but that is balanced by Steff Evans looking less assured.

There was a time, about 10 years ago, that the accepted wisdom was that you could''t score tries from set pieces. You needed to go through the phases.

Well, as Gwyn Evans and Sean Holley pointed out, Wales have turned that on its head. Most of our tries have come from set pieces and, the more phases we put together, the less likely we are to score.

That's a conundrum for Warren Gatland and his coaching team to ponder.

Rather them than me!

Hallam Amos evades Coetzee's despairing tackle on his way to setting up Wales' first try, scored by Scott Williams. (ALL PHOTOS BY HUW EVANS AGENCY)

Taulupe Faletau was a steadying influence throughout. Well worth the fine that Bath will have to pay.

Dan Biggar is tackled.

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